Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 81 | WEDNESDAY APRIL 24, 2013 | www.saipantribune.com | 75¢

CHCC offers lots for lease; voids commitments CEO made. PAGE 2
Alleged victim continues testimony in rape trial. PAGE 3

Medicaid projects more clients

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With more and more families dropping their health insurance mainly due to higher premium rates, the CNMI Medicaid Program expects a surge in the number of people it will serve next fiscal year.

» Between 10 and 15 percent growth seen

CNMI Medicaid Program administrator Helen Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that they project the increase to reach 15 percent—about 2,700 more program beneficiaries.

The program's client base right now is about 18,000.

Sablan said the expected growth is due to many factors that include a huge increase in health insurance premiums, the minimum wage hike, and the economic woes being experienced by many families.

See MEDICAID on Page 4

STREETS WITH DOWNED NAMES HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A vehicle drives past a downed street sign at a road intersection in Garapan yesterday afternoon. Many of Saipan's street signs are either broken or missing, but repairing or replacing them is taking a back seat as the government funnels funds to priority programs such as healthcare, the pension system, utilities, and education.

Lawmakers stand pat on Tinian trip

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lawmakers insisted yesterday that they paid for their own airfare to visit the Tinian Health Center with then CEO Juan N. Babauta, despite the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board's release of travel authorizations, or TAs, that CHCC cut for them.

Lawmakers said they will also visit the Rota Health Center next week and this won't cost the corporation any penny either.

During yesterday's session of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, Sen. Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan) said it would have been better if the CHCC board verified with airlines first as to who paid for the lawmakers' trips to Tinian before dragging lawmakers into the conflict between the board and Babauta.

Babauta invited lawmakers to visit Tinian Health Center two Fridays ago, during the same day when he was supposed to meet with the board.

Lawmakers said yesterday they didn't know Babauta was supposed to be on Saipan for a meet-

See LAWMAKERS on Page 4

Marathon blast victim faces challenges

By ALLEN G. BREED
AP NATIONAL WRITER

BOSTON (AP)—As this shocked city observed a moment of silence, Heather Abbott was following through on a difficult decision—allowing doctors to amputate her left foot, which was mangled in the bombings that shattered the Boston Marathon.

From her bed at Brigham and Women's

See MARATHON on Page 4

AP

This April 18, 2013 photo provided by Alfred Colonese shows from left Alfred Colonese, Mick Henn, Dale Abbott, first lady Michelle Obama, Heather Abbott, Jason Geremia, and Michelle Dalrymple at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

GOT A NEWS TIP?
TEL: 235-6397
235-2440
FAX: 235-3740
EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Do you support the proposal for CNMI foreign workers as outlined in the immigration reform bill crafted by the U.S. Senate's "Gang of Eight"?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

NATION

Supporters urge opponents not to link immigration bill to Boston. ➤ PAGE 14

WORLD

Red Cross says at least 187 killed in Nigeria violence. ➤ PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE

Reese Witherspoon's clean image should fully recover. ➤ PAGE 20

MORE INSIDE

➤ Man'amko get new bowling balls. PAGE 5

➤ POB, Pacific Hold'em winners get prizes. PAGE 8
➤ Proposed regs outline use of pesticides. PAGE 9

Local

TO GENERATE INCOME FOR HOSPITAL:

CHCC opens lots for lease; voids commitments CEO made

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of trustees has voted to offer for lease a portion of its designated public lands as a means to generate revenue for the public hospital.

The decision to open the corporation property for lease was reached following receipt of a proposal from Landscape Management Systems Inc. in Guam, which wants to respond to an announcement by the U.S. government's General Services Administration.

In its announcement on April 2, GSA is seeking to lease a property on Saipan where it can build a courtroom, administrative office, and law enforcement office. Landscape Management System, using CHCC property for its plan, wants to respond to this announcement.

The property that the corporation board wants to lease out are the two parcels of land adjacent to the hospital that the Fitial administration gave to the corporation in January 2012. The lots total 38,500 square meters. The property has an estimated value of $1.2 million, according to the Department of Public Lands.

According to CHCC board chair Joaquin Torres, the board supports this option to lease the property but decided to open it up to all developers or companies who may also want to submit letter of interest to the GSA announcement. CHCC can then negotiate with the winning bidder.

This early, however, the Marianas Public Land Trust has already raised some concerns, according to corporation counsel Allen Hazlip. The property is encumbered due to the corporation's existing line of credit with MPLT.

Torres said that MPLT's involvement will be sought because the agency's written consent must be secured before anything pushes through. He instructed Hazlip to continue talking with the MPLT on the matter.

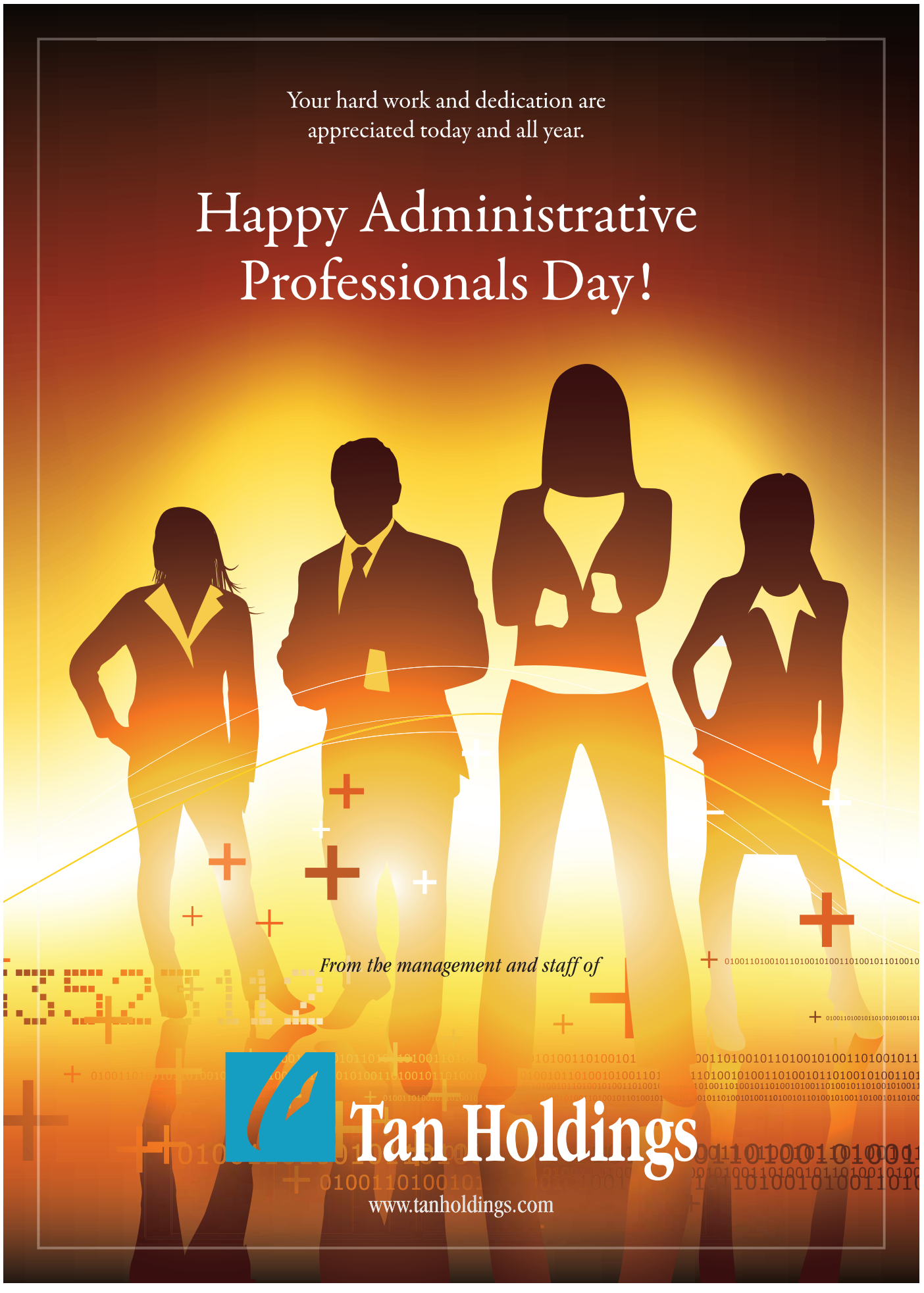
Based on the adopted resolution, the board recommends that the corporation enter into an option to lease up to 10,000 square meters of the land.

To ensure that former CEO Juan N. Babauta will not be involved in the matter, the board agreed to declare as "null and void" any and all commitments Babauta made to any contractor interested in leasing or developing the property.

The board fired Babauta last week. Named interim CEO is Esther Muña. As of yesterday, Gov. Eloy S. Inos has yet to accept the board's decision.

According to board vice chair Pedro Dela Cruz, "This is the very first real [option] that would provide continuing financial resources to the corporation and I believe that we must see this as an important issue that we should move forward now."

The corporation was allocated a seed capital of only $5 million in fiscal year 2011. The appropriation further went down to just $1.9 million in fiscal years 2012 and 2013. The designation of the public lands to the corporation aims to help the agency generate its own revenue and become self-sufficient.



'Fruit bat case is complex; involves DNA samples and autopsies of bats'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The *fanihi* or fruit bat case against Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) is complex as it involves, among other factors, DNA samples and autopsies of bats, according to the senator's lawyer and a prosecutor.

Court-appointed defense counsel Bruce Berline and assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe have agreed to ask the U.S. District Court for the NMI to move the May 15, 2013, trial date to July 29, 2013.

In their stipulation filed Monday, Berline and Backe said the matter is complex as the U.S. government must prove that a certain species of bat was taken.

The lawyers said the U.S. government's discovery is fairly extensive, involving several expert witnesses, DNA samples, and autopsies of bats.

Accordingly, Berline and Backe said, an extraordinary amount of time and effort is required to review the evidence in order to evaluate the possible need for defense expert witnesses and to prepare an effective defense on behalf of Ayuyu.

Assuming that this matter is not complex or unusual, the lawyers said a continuance of the trial is needed to allow Ayuyu's counsel "the reasonable time necessary for effective preparation, taking into account the exercise of due diligence."

Guam lawyer David J. Lujan earlier disclosed that he refused to accept the *fanihi* case because it's time consuming for him and that he has other cases in Guam for trials in May and June.

Lujan only agreed to represent Ayuyu in the obstruction of justice case and the cellphone use case.

On Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Lujan's request to move the trial date in the cellphone use case from May 13 to July 23, 2013.

The judge set the new joint trial in the fruit bat case and the obstruction of justice case for July 29, 2013, instead of May 15, 2013.

DPS enhances tactical response

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero has created a new section to enable the rapid deployment and faster response time of the department's tactical response force.

Sgt. Anthony I. Macaranas was named the officer-in-charge of the Special Enforcement Action Section, or SEAS.

SEAS consolidated the functions of the Tactical Response Enforcement Team, Explosive Response Team, Protective Service Detail, and Honor and Guard Details "in a more organized and permanent fashion to address the needs of the community," said Deleon Guerrero.

In describing the old setup, Macaranas said that when there was a situation, the tactical response officers would be called when they're off. As a result, it would take them an hour to be at the scene.

With the new section, "we now have people on board if there is a situation," Macaranas said.

He defined a tactical environment as something that officers don't normally deal with, such as a hostage situation.

He said SEAS officers are ready to assess the situation while other officers are still on their way to the scene.

"From there we come up with a tactical plan of action, how to attack the situation, how to defuse it, and then we pull out if the situation is neutralized already," Macaranas said.

He said SEAS officers will be there to support the frontline officers, give them backup to prevent the exposure of police officers in a tactical environment.

Macaranas said that in case of an active shooter, tactical officers will be ready to actually help the officers in a tactical situation.

In the case of VIPs, upon receiving the order from the commissioner or Police Operations commander Capt. Pete A. Leon Guerrero, Macaranas will come up with a plan as to which officers will be assigned to the dignitaries.

The SEAS office, which is on Capital Hill, is still under renovation. It currently has 16 officers, including Macaranas.

Macaranas said they are still bringing in things in order for the office to be more sustainable.

Alleged victim continues testimony in rape trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Using closed circuit TV, the teenager who was allegedly kidnapped and raped by ex-convict Michael Anthony Jackson was able to continue her testimony yesterday in Superior Court.

It was the first time in CNMI history that the Superior Court used closed circuit TV at a trial. The law that allows victims of sex crimes to testify via closed circuit TV is 12 years old now since it became law.

During the continuation of the alleged victim's testimony, two courtrooms and two laptops connected via the Internet messaging application Skype were used.

The courtroom where the 17-year-old girl testified was sealed from the public. Present in that courtroom were Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, Jackson, prosecutors, defense lawyers, the victim's advocate, court staff, and a court marshal.

In the other courtroom, which was open to the public, were the seven jurors, a court marshal, and a court staff.

The girl first took the witness stand on Monday but was unable to finish her testimony as she kept crying. This prompted Camacho to postpone the trial to yesterday.

Jackson

At yesterday's trial, the girl continued with her testimony and spoke in a low voice. It also took a while for her to reply to questions by assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll.

The girl said she was in pain after Jackson assaulted her. She said that Jackson also smoked marijuana.

She told prosecutors that she was so scared she got off from the car, ran to a poker arcade, and hid in a restroom.

She said she later went to a cousin's house where she called her aunt. She was then taken to the hospital.

Police said the then 15-year-old girl had just come from an Internet café and was walking along Tun Joaquin Doi Road in Fina Sisu on her way to her house on Oct. 9, 2010 at 1am when Jackson allegedly forced her into his car, brought her to an open field south of the Saipan airport, and allegedly raped her inside his vehicle.

Jackson also allegedly forced the girl to smoke "ice" or methamphetamine.

Jackson was arrested later that night after detectives were able to identify him and the car.

The trial of the 39-year-old Jackson began on Monday.

BOE frets over 'unclear' issues surrounding new middle school

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Board of Education board are hesitant to take any action relating to the proposed Koblerville Junior High School following disclosure that there are issues that remain unclear up to this time.

The board also deferred adopting the proposed master plan for the new junior high school pending the conduct and submission of a comprehensive assessment on the proposed building.

BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero believes that building a new public school on private property is not a sound investment. He pointed out that the land where the planned middle school will rise remains owned by three individuals.

He said the board doesn't know whether the government plans to acquire the lot for the Public School System or have it exchanged with other public lands.

"Why would we build [the school] on something that you cannot own? It's not a good investment…and I think we need to clarify those things [with the government]," said Guerrero.

At a recent BOE meeting, the board was presented three different designs for the proposed school. The capital improvement project committee, chaired by Marylou Ada, has recommended using the Chacha Junior High School building as a model.

But due to the absence of an impact study and related assessment, members Lucy Blanco Maratita and Janice Tenorio said they were uncomfortable approving the proposed design pending the submission of more information.

The input of stakeholders, particularly in Koblerville, must also be considered, they said.

The new school is being planned to be built across the Coral Ocean Point. The proposed design can accommodate up to 600 students.

Guerrero earlier said that no funding has been identified and committed at this time for the project. He asked that capital improvement project monies be tapped to make this happen.

PSS and the board earlier estimated that they need $6 million to build the Koblerville Junior High School. They plan to relocate 600 students and their teachers from Hopwood Junior High School to the new school once it is built.

DPA CAR MART
We're buying '97 & Up used cars!
Transaction only within 30 mins.
Call 287-8688 or visit
DPA CAR MART in San Antonio

MICRONESIA RENT-A-CAR
MICRONESIA 24HRS RENT A CAR
Call 287-8484 レンタカー 租车
BEST PRICE ON ISLAND!
Come over and see our fine selection of cars!
FREE PICK UP SERVICE
Call: 287-8484
Location: Garapan, across American Memorial Park or between Daycare and Dental Clinic
Some conditions and restrictions apply

Thai Style Massage
Spring Special
1 hour massage for $15.00 per person
Valid only for 2 or more people within a group.
Open Daily 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.
Tel.: (670) 287-2969
(670) 285-4466
Also Available
GIFT CERTIFICATES
6 hour massage for only $100.00
Located on Micro Beach Rd., Garapan
Next to New Wave Dental

JWS Celebrating 20 YEARS of SERVICE 1993 - 2013
AIR CONDITIONING • REFRIGERATION • HOTEL & RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT • MECHANICAL CONTRACTING
Tel. No. 235-5572/74 • Fax No. 235-5573 • Email: jwssaipan@pticom.com
BEAT THAT SUMMER HEAT
Now Available:
■ 9,000 BTU – 36,000 BTU Split Type Units
■ 13 SEER – 20 SEER Inverter Units
■ 5 Ton, 7.5 Ton and 10 Ton Package Units
MAYTAG
Haier
Goodman
DB DUNHAM-BUSH
We Also Specialize in:
• Commercial Chill Water Systems
• Commercial Package & Split-Ducted System
• Commercial Refrigeration and Manitowoc Ice Machines
• Commercial Boiler Systems
• All Types of Metal Fabrication
Call us now for an estimate at 235-5572/4 or fax 235-5573
Email: jwssaipan@pticom.com

Earn College Credits this Summer!
SUMMER ACADEMY
The College Access Challenge Grant Program is offering a scholarship of up to $800 for high school seniors and juniors to take college courses at the Northern Marianas College through the Summer Academy. The Summer Academy gives high school students an opportunity to gain meaningful college experience while they are earning transferable college credits. In addition to college level work, Summer Academy participants will also receive college advising, academic tutoring and college preparatory and life skills training. Participants also take part in field trips, workshops, and various team building exercises
For more information, contact a CACG Outreach Counselor at 234-5498 ext: 1346 or email cacg@nmcnet.edu.
Learn More! Summer Academy Free Info Session:
April 10, 2013, 5-8pm @ Student Center, Building J
April 20, 2013, 9-12pm
**FAFSA Application & Summer Academy Scholarship Applications due April 30, 2013
COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANT

OPA points to 'reckless procurement practice'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor has said it is "disturbed by what appears to be a reckless procurement practice" by the Division of Energy when it "improperly" changed solicitation terms at the last minute without informing all bidders in the competitive range, just so it can beat a federal grant funding deadline.

Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), meanwhile, said yesterday that he will further review procurement regulations to shorten timelines for decisions to be made when there is a procurement protest and appeal pending.

Some $8 million worth of federal and locally funded projects administered by the Department of Public Works alone are under protest, so construction has been temporarily stopped.

In an April 11 decision, OPA recommended that the Division of Energy, which is under DPW, follow proper procurement process in the future.

OPA made the recommendations when it denied Chong's Corp.'s procurement appeal related to the installation of air-conditioning units on Tinian and Rota last year.

Chong's Corp. appealed Energy's decision to cancel Chong's Corp.'s award, and then award the project to the second bidder, JWS, based on an amendment to the solicitation.

OPA said an agency may amend solicitation terms of a request for proposals, or RFP, under the section on competitive sealed proposals without canceling procurement. But because Energy amended the solicitation improperly, "Energy did not follow the Procurement Regulations," OPA said.

Energy only informed Chong's Corp. about the changes in the solicitation terms, instead of informing JWS as well.

OPA, however, reaffirmed the JWS contract because the contract term has long since expired and the CNMI has already obtained the benefit of the services provided.

"While OPA is disturbed by what appears to be a reckless procurement practice of a last-minute change to accommodate a grant funding deadline, it does not reach a finding of bad faith. Finally, OPA reaffirms the final contract awarded to JWS on the basis that it was in the best interest of the CNMI to award and conclude the contract," OPA legal counsel Deborah E. Fisher said in an April 11 decision.

Acting public auditor George Hasselback concurred with the decision.

As to the bad faith element in the appeal that Chong's Corp. was "mistreated," OPA said there is not enough evidence for the company to meet its burden to overcome the presumption of good faith.

OPA, however, made it clear that nothing about this "faulty process" can be related to Chong's Corp., which acted properly and diligently in all regards.

It also said there is no allegation that the awardee of the final contract, JWS, acted fraudulently or in bad faith.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Raffle drawing postponed

The Sexual Assault Awareness Month raffle drawing set for April 25 has been postponed to Thursday, May 30, at 7pm and will be held at the Garapan Street Market. The raffle is an annual fundraiser for the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. All funds raised will go to the Coalition. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your understanding and support. For more information, call 234-3878. ***(PR)***

Hindu community members' meeting

CNMI Hindu members will be having a general meeting on April 27, Saturday, at the Radha Krishna Temple in Chalan Kanoa at 7pm. The community needs to rebuild itself as some of its officers have either left the island or resigned. For more information, contact assistant secretary Akhil Molliek at 287-4711. ***(PR)***

Free lifeguard training

The American Red Cross is scheduled to provide free lifeguard training to qualified individuals. Space is limited. Please call the chapter office at 234-3459 to register. To learn more about health & safety training, visit www.redcross.org/take-a-class. ***(PR)***

SVES kindergarten registration

San Vicente Elementary School's registration for kindergarten only is scheduled on May 28-31, 2013, from 9am through 11:30am in the school main office.

The child must be 5 years old on or before Aug. 31, 2008, with a date of birth between Sept. 1, 2007, and Aug. 31, 2008. Registration requirements: copy of birth certificate; original health certificate (public health or private clinic); medical insurance or accidental insurance; map of residential location; power of attorney/legal guardianship (if applicable); copy of report card or certificate of completion (from any preschool). For more information, contact 237-3791. ***(PR)***

Navy training at Warning Area 517

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on April 24, from 8am to 4pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(PR)***

MARATHON

From Page 1

Hospital on Monday, the 38-year-old Rhode Island woman reflected on the terror of April 15—and on the waves of agony and grace that followed in the week since.

"I'm trying to be positive about things," she told The Associated Press in a telephone interview before her surgery. "And hope that my life doesn't have to change much."

The day of the bombings, Abbott and a half-dozen friends took in the traditional Patriots' Day Red Sox game at Fenway Park. They left early and headed to Forum, where a friend tends bar and where former New England Patriots were gathered to raise money for offensive guard Joe Andruzzi's cancer foundation.

The restaurant is at 755 Boylston Street, not far from the marathon's finish line.

Abbott was at the back of the long line, waiting as bouncers checked ID's, when the first blast went off. Unlike many, she knew exactly what it was.

"I felt like I was watching the footage on 9/11," said Abbott, who works in human resources for Raytheon Company in Portsmouth, R.I.

Abbott was scrambling to get off the sidewalk when the force of a second blast blew her through the restaurant doorway.

After she'd regained her senses, she tried to stand, but her left foot felt "as if it were on fire." Unable to find her friends in the smoke and confusion, she called out to the panicked crowd.

"Somebody, please help me," Abbott shouted as people scrambled for the rear exits, not knowing whether there were more explosions to come. She'd begun to give up hope when a woman walked up and began dragging her toward the door, quietly reciting a Catholic prayer as she tugged.

"Hail Mary, full of grace...," the woman intoned.

The woman had pulled Abbott a few feet when a burly man stepped in, picked her up and carried her out the back door into an alley. She would later learn it was former Patriots linebacker Matt Chatham.

Jason Geremia spotted them and shouted, "Please give her to me. She's my friend."

The linebacker lay Abbott on the ground and rushed off to help others. Friend Alfred Colonese of Newport, R.I., took off his belt and used it as a tourniquet to stop the bleeding.

Someone found a piece of wood in the alley. The friends were preparing to carry her out on it when a medic appeared and told them not to move her. Soon, rescuers appeared with a gurney and wheeled Abbott back through the Forum and out the front door, Colonese said.

Abbott didn't have the heart to look at her foot, but as she was being carried away, she glanced back and saw a trail of her blood.

She was loaded into a packed ambulance: Beside her was a man on a gurney, an oxygen mask covering his mouth and nose. As a worker inserted an IV into her arm, Abbott could hear the driver shouting to the crowd outside, "Make a hole! Make a hole!"

Rescuers asked her repeatedly for her first and last names. A woman asked if there was someone she wanted them to call. In a world of cell phones and speed dial, the only number she knows by heart was her parents' back in Lincoln, R.I.

Abbott could tell that her mother, Rosemary, was frantically asking questions. The man simply told her that her daughter had been injured, and that she and her husband, Dale, should come to Brigham.

During the ambulance ride, Abbott struggled to keep her eyes open.

"I felt like if I closed them," she said, "maybe I wouldn't be able to open them again."

When the ambulance arrived, workers rushed Abbott to surgery, where doctors stabilized her and cleaned her wound. She had a second surgery on Thursday to clean the wound and allow specialists to better assess the situation. The blast had broken her ankle and shattered several small bones in her foot.

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

ing with the board.

Reyes said it is "disturbing" that CHCC board members insisted on making an issue with the TAs when lawmakers didn't use any of these TAs.

He also said legislative health committees have oversight over the health centers and CHCC.

But a CHCC board member said yesterday it's Babauta—and not the board—that "dragged the lawmakers into this" by cutting TAs for lawmakers, regardless of whether these TAs were actually used.

Rep. Roman Benavente (IR-Saipan) and Rep. Antonio Agulto (IR-Saipan), chairman of the House Health and Welfare Committee, also reiterated during the session yesterday that as committee members, they could do a site inspection of Tinian Health Center.

They said they paid for their own trip, and not CHCC, regardless of the TAs that the CHCC board released.

The lawmakers said it is disappointing that because of the conflict between the CHCC board and Babauta, the real issues about the Tinian Health Center taking a back seat.

Benavente, for example, related that they had to pry open with an object the Tinian Health Center's emergency sliding glass door before they could enter.

Reyes, for his part, said he wasn't aware that there was no fulltime physician at the Tinian Health Center until his visit.

"The lives on Tinian are as important as the lives on Saipan and Rota," Reyes said during the session.

Delegation action

At the beginning of yesterday's session, Saipan lawmakers confirmed Mayor Donald Flores' appointments of John M. Pialur and Ursula Lifoifoi-Aldan to serve on the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board.

The confirmation was made after the delegation's 16-0 vote.

The delegation also passed three local bills appropriating and re-appropriating leftover funds for Saipan precinct projects and programs.

However, Flores and Henry Hofschneider of the Saipan Mayor's Office's request for the delegation to set aside $40,000 to buy a bucket truck was again not included in the appropriations bills.

Flores and Hofschneider said recent incidents of trees falling should have been reason enough for lawmakers to give the Saipan Mayor's Office funds to buy a bucket truck to remove certain trees or tree branches before accidents happen.

MEDICAID

From Page 1

"The cost of health insurance is really high and many eligible members have dropped off because they cannot afford to pay the increased premiums. For that reason and the minimum wage, we're seeing a big increase in our numbers next fiscal year, probably between 10 to 15 percent," Sablan said.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. approved in August 2012 a new fee schedule for hospital services, increasing fees by up to 300 percent. Many insurance firms dubbed the fee hike as the highest in the Pacific and other states. This year, most insurance companies increased their premium rates as a result of this action.

The Medicaid program is a federal/state program administered by the states and funded by both the federal and states revenues through matching funds.

About four years ago, the Medicaid program had about 10,000 clients. This jumped to over 14,700 in fiscal year 2010. Since then, the numbers just kept climbing, mainly because of work-hour reductions in government and private sectors.

Sablan submitted the same budget level for fiscal year 2014. To cover other program expenses, she proposed a separate supplemental budget that would be used to match federal monies.

According to press secretary Angel A. Demapan, the governor is still working on the new budget. The amount recommended for the Medicaid program will be known once the budget plan is finalized.

"As to the revelations of an increased clientele base in [fiscal year] 2014, that is one of the factors that the governor will have to consider as the final budget package is being formulated," added Demapan.

From $12M debt to only $7M at present

Sablan also disclosed that the agency was able to reduce its outstanding obligation to providers due to higher reimbursements from the federal government

From an outstanding reimbursement obligation of $12 million since 2012, the debt is now down to over $7 million, covering both off- and on-island providers and vendors.

"Yes, we are paying [our providers]. From supposedly $12 million, it went down to about $7 million inclusive of everybody [off and on-island vendors]," she said.

Sablan revealed that the healthcare corporation received the bulk of Medicaid reimbursements following the implementation of a new state plan that designated the public hospital as the provider of services for Medicaid clients.

According to CHCC records, reimbursements received from Medicaid in fiscal year 2012 totaled $6.142 million. As of Feb. 28 this year, reimbursements received for fiscal year 2013 total $3.393 million.

Acknowledging the limited number of services available at CHC, Sablan said they will review options to open up the services to private clinics.

"We would sit down with the governor to see whether we will open these services to the private clinics," said Sablan.

Medicaid clients are sometimes turned away from the hospital due to the lack of resources and personnel.

At present, the Medicaid Office has a provider's agreement with dental clinics while other services remain closed, Sablan said.

‘No to shooting ranges, yes to stiff penalties for crimes vs tourists’

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing safety concerns for residents and tourists, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce said it does not support a proposal to allow outdoor shooting ranges and skeet shooting developments. It, however, supports a measure imposing higher mandatory jail term for those who commit crimes against tourists.

The Chamber of Commerce, the largest private business organization in the CNMI, comments on House Bill 18-29 or the Recreational Target Range Act of 2013, and House Bill 18-40 providing stiffer penalties related to crimes against tourists or their property.

Chamber president Alex Sablan said the Legislature has never before allowed shooting ranges and skeet shooting for safety reasons, “and there’s no reason to believe situations affecting access to weaponry should change.”

“The Chamber believes the small advantages gained by allowing for a shooting range are far outweighed by the potential downside where crimes may increase as a result of greater access to gun,” Sablan said in a statement.

HB 18-29 amends the Weapons Control Act to promote and allow outdoor shooting ranges and skeet shooting developments offering rifle competitions and skeet shootings. It also amends the customs violations provisions to accommodate outdoor shooting ranges.

Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), author of HB 18-29, said yesterday he welcomes comments to this bill which he said has the backing of the Department of Public Safety.

“The Chamber has a different interpretation of it. We will hold public hearings on this bill starting next week,” Leon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

The bill is under review by the House Judiciary and Government Operations Committee that Leon Guerrero chairs.

Sablan said DPS itself is understaffed, underfunded, and unlikely able to property prevent or respond to increased traffic of higher caliber munitions if HB 18-29 becomes law.

The Chamber, however, supports Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero’s (IR-Saipan) HB 18-40, which strengthens provisions regarding crimes against tourists and their property.

“The Chamber emphatically agrees with the findings of HB 18-40, that a deterrent to criminal activity is directly related to the severity of penalties assessed against those that violate the law,” Sablan said.

He said the Chamber further suggest that the Legislature consult with the Judiciary regarding sentencing history versus rates of recidivism to arrive at those minimum sentence standards.

Pacific Amusement donates bowling balls for *man’amko*

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Seniors Advisory Council president Maria T. Salinas expressed appreciation yesterday to Pacific Amusement Inc. for being a staunch supporter of the *man’amko*, this time with its donation of bowling balls.

Salinas said that company general manager Jim Gebhard presented the Aging Center with eight brand new Columbia 300 bowling balls to be used by the elderly during their bowling activity at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Salinas said that she and former council president Teresita Sorroza had approached Gebhard to ask if he could donate three to four bowling balls for them.

In the past, Pacific Amusement Inc. donated darts, bingo machines, pool tables, and other sports equipment for use at the Aging Center. The company also regularly maintains their donated equipment free of charge.

Aging program coordinator Walter Manglona explained that the bowling balls at the Saipan Bowling Center, where the *man’amko* play the sport twice a month, are too heavy for the seniors.

With the donation, Salinas said more seniors will be able to enjoy bowling.

“It’s more than we hoped for. We can’t say enough thank you to him. Jim Gebhard is really a darling of a donor,” she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Additionally, Pacific Amusement Inc. also stepped up to sponsor all sporting events in celebration of the Older Americans Month in May.

Both Salinas and Manglona revealed that the company agreed to purchase trophies for next month’s sports champions, bringing the total amount of corporate donation to $1,500.

“He doesn’t want big attention but we want him to have our big thanks. We are so fortunate to have his support,” said Salinas, referring to Gebhard.

Manglona also acknowledged Saipan Bowling Center not only for hosting the *man’amko*’s bowling activity but also for drilling holes on the donated bowling balls for free.

“Whenever the *man’amko* are at the Saipan Bowling Center, the staff greet them with the warmest smiles and even offer them beverages. We really do appreciate that,” he added.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

President Maria T. Salinas of the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council shows one of the eight bowling balls donated by Pacific Amusement Inc. The company will also donate the trophies for the winners of all sporting events in celebration of Older Americans Month in May.

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

SPORTS & RECREATION MANAGER

Our Resort is looking for a qualified US worker candidate with previous Sports & Recreation management experience who is results driven and customer focused. He/she will take an active role within the management team and help direct and control the operation of the S&R Department and coordinate its activities in accordance with the Resort’s business objectives.

As the Sports & Recreation Manager, the responsibilities include but are not limited to:
- Leading, developing and implementing activities that appeal to a wide range of personalities and ages
- Completing needs assessments to determine what activities are needed, how often these will be offered, how seasons will affect these activities and what space or venue is required and available for participants
- Researching possible activity ideas, trying or sampling new activities and evaluating them as needed
- Creating activity schedules that reflects the Resort's needs and conceptualizing activities, which include but not limited to: kids club, sports activities, guest incentives, special packages, cultural activities, fitness center, cooperate events and tournaments
- Supervising sports and recreational staff members including lifeguards and other employees connected to the implementation of activities

Qualifications:
- Minimum Education: Associates degree in an appropriate field or equivalent years of relevant experience
- Minimum Experience: At least 3 years experience in sports and recreation, at managerial capacity, in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort
- Ability to work flexible hours including nights, weekends, and holidays
- Excellent communication, organizational, and multitasking skills are a must
- Team player

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application Forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our Resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than May 15, 2013. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Happy Administrative Professional’s Day
(formerly Secretary’s Day)
To all secretaries, administrative and executive assistants
Enjoy hours of skin, body and beauty treatments at
Serenity Salon & Spa
with our
Buy one, Get one at ½ price (BOGO)* promo
and get a chance to win salon & spa services in a raffle draw**
Call us now at telephone nos. 233-6688 / 233-2828
or visit us at 2ndFlr., Dollar Days Bldg., Beach Road, Garapan
*promo good for today only; promo not applicable on hair relax, rebond, hair color, cavitation, IPL and products
**purchase of services required

Lions to host Tinian fundraiser, Saipan medical mission

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A fundraising dinner will be held this Saturday to support plans to charter the Tinian Lions Club.

In cooperation with the Saipan Marianas Lions Club, the event will be held at 7pm at JC Café in San Jose on Tinian.

Lion Annamae Adaza said that district governor Herbie Perez and her Global Leadership Team, past district governors Goring Duenas, Mila Alcazaren, and district governor elect Annabel Dancel are expected to arrive for the April 27 event.

Adaza said the visiting Lions will arrive from Guam to hold an orientation and leadership seminar for the Tinian Lions Club officers and members. They will be joined by Region 2 officers from Saipan.

Tickets are available for the fundraising dinner at $15 per person. To buy tickets, call the anyone of the charter officers: president Lizabeth Hofschneider at 285-5474, secretary Vivian Hofschneider at 788-8906, treasurer Jackie Mendiola at 285-0971, Lot Bunao of JC Café at 285-3413, or Paul Madriaga of Saipan Marianas Lions Club at 287-4501.

The Guam Lions will also stay on Saipan for the Region 2 Saipan Lions Annual Medical Mission/Health Fair on Sunday, April 28, starting 8am at the Civic Center in Susupe.

Adaza said the Lions clubs invited various health providers, including eye and dental clinics and the Public Health Immunization Program to take part in the event where community members can avail of blood sugar and blood pressure checkups and vision screening.

Participating in the event are PHI Pharmacy, which pledged to donate strips supplies and offered the services of their two interns from Hawaii, and the Nursing Club at the Northern Marianas College.

"Medical practitioners such as doctors and nurses who wish to volunteer their time are welcome to join us," added Adaza.

The event will also feature the distribution of reading and prescription glasses, a signature activity of Lions clubs.

Organizers are also inviting vendors or individuals that want to make monetary or in-kind donations for the event. Adaza said the Tan Siu Lin Foundation has agreed to donate food for the volunteers. For information, call region 2 chair Ladyvir Canape at 989-3545 or region secretary Olive Yana at 989-3423.

For more information, visit www.lionsclubs.org. To become a member, contact vice district governor Pastor Gagaring at 287-7478, Region 2 chair Ladyvir Canape at 989-2545, zone chair Ruth Torrecampo at 989-6537, Region 2 secretary Olive Yana at 989-3423, Saipan Unity Lions Club president Noemi Catigan at 483-7183, Saipan Marianas Lions Club president Paul Madriaga at 287-4501, Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club president Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, or Tinian Lions Club president Lizabeth Hofschneider at 285-5474.

THE RETURNING CHAMPS

The island's JROTC Drill Team of Saipan Southern High School, Manta Ray Battalion will be leaving on April 24, 2013 to compete in the annual Golden Bear West Coast National Drill Meet in Torrance, California on April 27. 2013. Cadets from the Manta Ray Battalion will be competing in four events that includes Armed Inspection, Armed Regulation, Armed Exhibition, and Armed Color Guard also they will be competing in the Four-man team and the two-man team for Exhibition followed by the tap-outs. CSM Richard Basa, SGM Joaquin Kiyoshi, Mrs. Maratita, and the principal of Saipan Southern High School will be chaperoning them on their trip to represent our school and our island. Parents and cadets from Saipan Southern High School wish you luck and a happy trip for your competition.

Ogarro named Gates Millennium Scholar

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A senior student at Marianas High School has been chosen to receive the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship for 2013.

Ogarro

Gilda Maria Ogarro, 18, is the daughter of Carmen and Gil Ogarro. Since entering high school, she has longed to be one of the elite members of the well-known scholarship program that provides assistance to deserving students across the nation.

"I feel very blessed and astonished until now. I still feel like this was just a dream, but actually came true. I feel honored that God has put me through challenges, and eventually awarded me with a great blessing!" she told *Saipan Tribune* upon receiving the formal notification of the award.

"We commend you on your strong leadership, community service and academic achievements that contributed to your selection as a Gates Millennium Scholar. Your accomplishment is especially notable in the context of the more than 54,000 students who applied, making this year's the largest and most competitive group of candidates in the program's history," GMS stated in its letter to Ogarro dated April 15.

The Gates Millennium Scholars Program selects 1,000 talented students each year to receive a good-through-graduation scholarship to use at any college or university of their choice. It provides scholars with personal and professional development through leadership programs along with academic support throughout their college career.

Ogarro plans to start off college after graduation. It is her plan to pursue a course in business management and be a businesswoman.

"My future goal is to own a restaurant and be a culinary chef. However, those goals are still far ahead and I want to major in Business Management and be a future businesswoman first," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

The Gates Millennium Scholars Program, established in 1999, was initially funded by a $1 billion grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Man allegedly beats up his 2 kids

A 25-year-old man was arrested for allegedly beating up his two children while they were walking in Upper Miha Housing in Garapan on Sunday.

Harry S. Bisanen Jr. faces charges of child abuse or neglect and disturbing the peace. His bail was set yesterday at $5,000 cash.

Police detective Flora Danica B. Aguon stated in her report that police officer Jonathan Decena was sent to Upper Miha on Sunday afternoon to check on an alleged child abuse case.

Aguon said that Decena met a witness who stated that he saw Bisanen dragging his daughter by her hair and slapping her head twice. Bisanen was also allegedly dragging his son by holding on to his son's left arm.

Bisanen denied hurting his children but when Decena talked to the children, they said their father hurt them. Bisanen was arrested. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Arctic Circle, bank talk of possible settlement

Tony Pellegrino's Arctic Circle Air Co. and the Rhode Island-based Independence Bank are in talks for a possible settlement of the airline's lawsuit.

Arctic Circle counsel Michael W. Dotts and Independence Bank counsel Rexford C. Kosack informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday about their ongoing settlement talks.

Due to their discussions, Dotts and Kosack have agreed to move the present answer/response date and the briefing schedule by two weeks.

Independence Bank was originally ordered to file its response to the lawsuit on or before today, April 23. The parties agreed to move the filing of the response to May 7, 2013.

Arctic Circle Air Co. is suing the Rhode Island-based Independence Bank over the bank's demand for payment of $155,000 in "break-up fees."

The cargo and passenger airline asked the Superior Court to issue a judgment declaring that the company is not liable for the "break-up fees." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Serenity Salon offers pampering for NMI's administrative professionals

The highly skilled staff of Serenity Salon & Spa are ready to give administrative professionals on island the pampering they deserve in recognition of their efforts to ensure that offices are run smoothly.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Today is Administrative Professionals Day and Serenity Salon & Spa is offering special promotions as a reward for all the hard work of secretaries, executive, and administrative assistants during this special occasion.

This is the first time that Serenity Salon & Spa has created these pampering deals in honor of all administrative professionals who play a special role in the operations of every office on island.

To mark this nationally recognized holiday, Serenity Salon & Spa has sent out letters encouraging some 75 companies to honor their support staff by treating them to any of the salon's services and products.

"We recognize all career-minded administrative professionals who help keep their respective offices running smoothly. Now is the time to pay tribute to these highly dependable individuals and we have the perfect setting for this opportunity," said Serenity Salon & Spa.

All administrative staff can avail of different types of skin, body, and beauty treatments with Serenity Salon & Spa's Buy-one, Get-one at half off or BOGO offer throughout today, April 24. Excluded from this promotion are hair relax and rebond, hair color, cavitation, IPL, and beauty products.

Customers are also given the option to purchase the services now and schedule an appointment at a later date. "We want to accommodate those who can't leave their offices anytime within Wednesday and prefer to have the services over the weekend when they are off from work."

Those who avail of the BOGO promotion worth at least $25 will be given a raffle ticket for a chance to win free services. The drawing will be held by the end of the month and winners will be notified by phone.

If you missed the BOGO offer, Serenity Salon & Spa also has an ongoing 20-percent discount promotion on facials, massages, body scrub, and hair treatment. Promo expires on April 27.

Special fresh flower bouquet packages are also available until Saturday.

All beauty services at Serenity Salon & Spa are provided by six experienced and friendly staff.

"We invite all administrative professionals in the community to commemorate their special day by pampering themselves here at Serenity Salon & Spa. Even for just one day, spend some time to relax to get you through your duties and responsibilities at work," the management said.

Serenity Salon & Spa is located at the second floor of Dollar Days Building along Beach Road in Garapan. Gift certificates are available and major credit cards are accepted. For appointments or more information, call 233-6688 or 2828.

Trash-In Fashion Show tomorrow

The Division of Environmental Quality presents the 2013 Environmental Awareness Month of April with a fashion show that highlights Saipan's exceptional high school fashion designers and models.

The *"Trash-In Fashion Show"* will be held tomorrow, Thursday, April 25, 2013, from 6pm to 9pm at the Hard Rock Café of DFS Galleria. Guests must have a free ticket to enter.

The recycled clothing created by young fashion designers will be featured on Hard Rock Café's runway where they turn garbage into art. This event is open to the community while tickets last. You can obtain a free ticket by contacting Olivia Tebuteb Tenorio at DEQ at 664-8500/8504.

This year's Environmental Awareness Month celebration has the theme, *"All life of the land, sea and air are one."*

The Division of Environmental Quality urges the community to practice the 4 R's: Reduce-Reuse-Recycle-Respect. ***(DEQ)***

NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE THE CNMI JOINT MILITARY TRAINING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Marine Corps Forces, Pacific (MARFORPAC), as the Executive Agent designated by the United States Pacific Command, is extending the public scoping comment period for the CNMI Joint Military Training Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas EIS until May 13, 2013. A Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the Federal Register on Thursday, March 14, 2013 (Federal Register/Vol. 78, No. 50, Pages 16257 – 16259). The notice announced the initial public scoping comment period, including three public scoping meetings that took place on Wednesday, April 10, 2013; Thursday, April 11, 2013 and Friday, April 12, 2013. The public scoping meetings provided an opportunity for the public to obtain additional information and provide comments on the proposed action. The initial public scoping comment period requested the submission of all comments on the NOI to MARFORPAC by April 29, 2013 Chamorro Standard Time (ChST).

MARFORPAC is extending the public scoping comment period until May 13, 2013 (ChST).

Interested agencies, individuals, and groups may mail their comments to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific
Attn: EV21, CNMI Joint Military Training
EIS/OEIS Project Manager
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
JBPHH, HI 96860-3134

Comments may also be submitted via the website:
www.CNMIJointMilitaryTrainingEIS.com.

Rotary awards prizes for POB, Pacific Hold'em winners

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Officials of Rotary Club of Saipan join coordinators from elementary schools that participated in the 2013 Parade of Books for a group photo following Tuesday's awarding ceremony at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday awarded the prizes for the winners of the 2013 Parade of Books and the inaugural Pacific Hold'em Tournament.

Rotary officials led by president Pete Shilling, vice president Laila Boyer, and secretary Richard Cody presented the coordinators of participating schools with their checks.

Held on April 13, the Parade of Books is an annual competition where students act out stories of their choice. This year's theme was "Legends and Myths of the Marianas and Micronesia."

Present in yesterday's ceremony were first placer and Most Spirit awardee Oleai Elementary School, second placer and Best Director recipient Koblerville Elementary School, third placer Garapan Elementary School, fourth placer San Vicente Elementary School, Dandan and Kagman elementary schools, and Eucon International School. Fifth placer Mount Carmel School did not make it to Tuesday's meeting.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Rotary vice president Laila Boyer and Marpac's Melvin Tenorio flank winners of the inaugural Pacifc Hold'em Tournament as they smile for the camera.

Each coordinator also received travel vouchers donated by Delta Air Lines.

"In the past, we haven't ever really properly recognized the efforts of each school coordinator. They're using their own time to work with the students after school hours to prepare the presentation," explained Shilling.

Rotary also awarded the prize money to the winners of the 2013 Pacific Hold'em Tournament held at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall on April 20.

In attendance during yesterday's presentation were tournament champion Jon Bargfrede, second placer Jeff Garcia, third placer Rodney Camacho, fourth placer Lino Tenorio, and sixth placer Glen Calvo.

Boyer thanked all who supported Saturday's tournament, the proceeds of which will be earmarked for the Kagman Children's Park project.

Other projects completed during Rotary year 2012 to 2013 are the Las Vegas Night fundraiser, Drive Carefully road signs, support for the Boy Scouts of America CNMI Chapter, Thanksgiving luncheon, and the Annual Rotary Youth Basketball League.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 24, 2004

$455-a-week wage needs to be exempt from OT

For employees to continue to be exempted from overtime pay under the newly approved FairPay regulations, they must be compensated at a rate no less than $455 a week. The U.S. Department of Labor said that while the rules for exemptions are different for each broad occupation group-executive, administrative, professional, and outside sales worker jobs-the overtime exemption generally depends upon the duties and responsibilities of the job and salary, not the job title. "The job title does not matter if the job duties do not meet the requirements of the regulations. Workers must be paid on a guaranteed salary basis to be exempt," the U.S. DOL said in its website.

MPLA board defers action on emergency center

The Marianas Public Lands Authority's board of directors has deferred action on the proposed construction of a $4-million emergency operations center on Capitol Hill. The board said in a recent meeting that it needs more time to evaluate the proposal. "The board understands the urgency of the matter but it needs time to assess certain things," said acting MPLA commissioner Frank Eliptico. The Emergency Management Office, which received a $4-million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to build the center, had asked the MPLA in February this year to designate 8,300 square meters of public land for the project, which will be called the CNMI Emergency Operations Center. It forms part of the CNMI's homeland security preparedness program.

Apr. 24, 2005

Fund, AGO yet to finalize regs for 2003 law

Regulations for the new retirement law, which was enacted nearly two years ago, have yet to be finalized and published. Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes said Friday that the Attorney General's Office and Fund staff would meet on Tuesday to finish the final draft of the regulations. Reyes said the process took long largely because the AGO "wants to be clear on every section of it." "The AGO wants to make sure that we understand every section of it because this law [Public Law 13-60] addresses so many previous retirement laws. Most likely, we'll finish everything by Tuesday. It will be then published and we'll wait for the 30-day comment period," he said.

House calls for CNMI's own US attorney, marshal

The House of Representatives has adopted two resolutions calling on President Bush to appoint a separate U.S. Attorney and U.S. Marshal for the CNMI. The House, during a session Thursday, unanimously approved House Resolution 14-119 for the CNMI's U.S. Marshall and H.R. 14-120 for the CNMI's U.S. Attorney. Authored both by Rep. Clyde Norita, the resolutions argued that, as a separate territory, the CNMI deserves to have the two posts. Right now, the CNMI maintains both offices but it lacks resident officials. "As it stands, the U.S. attorney and U.S. Marshal for CNMI is Guam. These offices report directly to Guam," Norita said.

Apr. 24, 2006

Fitial, Tenorio spar over submerged lands

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Washington Rep. Pedro A. Tenorio are at odds over how to proceed with the CNMI's claim to submerged lands ownership. Tenorio reported to the Legislature on Friday that Fitial had recently asked New Mexico Sen. Pete Domenici to withdraw from consideration the CNMI submerged land bill currently pending in the U.S. Senate. Domenici is the chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Senate Bill 1831 would give the Commonwealth full control over three miles of submerged land seaward from its shores. Other U.S. states and territories, except Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico have the same arrangement with the federal government.

Annual CUC fuel bill up 120 percent

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's annual fuel bill went from $27.5 million in fiscal year 2002 to nearly $59 million in fiscal year 2005 or an increase of over 120 percent in a three-year period. Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, in his State of the CUC Special Report Friday, disclosed that in FY 2003 and the first few months of FY 2004, CUC was paying an average of around $38 per barrel. Villagomez said CUC's latest tanker delivery came in at an aggregate amount inclusive of all costs associated to bring the fuel to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota at roughly $93 per barrel.

Proposed regulations outline use of pesticides

The Division of Environmental Quality has published the proposed Pesticide Management Regulations in the Commonwealth Registrar and the final date for comment submission is Friday, April 26, 2013.

The impacted groups are primarily for-hire pest applicators that apply termiticide and spot and crevice pesticides; as well as applicators of herbicides.

In general, any requirement related to the use or application of pesticide has been consolidated into this section called "use of pesticides."

The proposed regulations change the requirement for structural treatment permit to a requirement for a termiticide treatment permit. The proposed regulation further specifies the process for obtaining a permit and the manner of and restrictions on application (pre, post, etc.). This requirement for a permit specifically exempts the baiting, spot, crack, crevice treatments. The proposed regulations add a requirement for a permit for the aerial application of pesticides. The process mirrors that of the termiticide treatment, but restricts aerial application to sites that are 150 acres or larger.

The proposed regulations also specifies that GUPs offered for sale by retailers, wholesalers and dealers must be stored a minimum distance of 10 feet from all fresh, soft, loosely packaged or other types of food or feed items. This will impact small grocers.

The requirement for the storage of pesticides for certified applicators and licensed dealers are better defined and specifically restricts the storage of personal protective equipment with pesticide chemicals. The proposed regulations also require storage permits for more than 4,000 lbs or 500 gallons of pesticides and include containment and secondary containment in accordance with 40 CFR Section 165.80-97 (July 2012) as a precondition for the permit.

The proposed regulations specify transportation requirements for Restricted Use Pesticides, or RUPs. The proposed regulations substitute disposal requirements for pesticides and pesticide containers for a process approving a disposal plan submitted by an applicant.

Proposed recordkeeping regulations refine the recordkeeping requirements to provide more useful information to DEQ by only requiring records of the use and application of GUPs and RUPs for commercial applicators and use and application of RUPs for private applicators. For licensed dealers, the requirement to keep records was simplified to include only sale and distribution of RUPs.

All certified applicators must comply with the Worker Protection Standards. These standards were updated to incorporate the federal standards and to simply the lengthy and often difficult to understand CNMI worker protection standards.

The regulations are available online http://deq.gov.mp/artdoc/Sec7art221ID776.pdf.

Send written comments on the proposed pesticide regulations via email storagetankspesticides@deq.gov.mp or fax comments to 66664-8540 no later than close of business day on Friday, April 26, 2013. You may also call Reina Camacho at 664-8512 for additional information. ***(DEQ)***

Final MMAC team meetings on Apr. 24, 25

The 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer committee will be holding their final team captains' meetings today, April 23, and tomorrow, April 24, at 5:30pm at the Commonwealth Cancer Association office on Middle Road in Gualo Rai (by NMPASI). All team captains or their representatives are urged to attend these important meetings.

"Teams will be able to pick up their T-shirts and make luminary payments at our Wednesday, April 23, meeting. We will see you at the CCA office at 5:30pm," said 2013 MMAC overall chair Manny Borja. "Our Thursday, April 24, meeting will be an open Q&A session with MMAC committee members. T-shirts will also be distributed at this meeting."

"The MMAC event is this Friday so we encourage all teams to attend both meetings," said Borja.

The MMAC is the largest cancer fundraising activity in the CNMI. It is the signature fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, a volunteer-led non-profit 501(c)3 organization that ensures all funds raised are spent entirely in the CNMI on cancer awareness programs, cancer patient support services and other cancer-related activities.

The 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on April 26-27 from 6pm to 6am at Hopwood Junior High School in Chalan Piao.

For more information on the MMAC call 989-1987, email emanuel.borja@gmail.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Joe C. Ayuyu! For your hard work and dedication as a community leader and father, we are grateful. We hope you enjoy your special day and look forward to celebrating many more birthdays to come! We love you, your family.

Belated happy birthday to the best dad anyone could ever ask for, Jesus S. Cabrera! May the Lord continue to bless and guide you always! We love you always! Greetings come from Mom, BanZinGirls, Loren, Zowie, and Nina, JaNez and the girls.

Happy 43rd birthday to Nenette Helbert, the greatest mother, aunty, grandmother, and sister! We love you and hope you havee the greatest day. Greetings come from The Finasisu Troops!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DPL-104 TINIAN

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 17, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE (TINIAN BRANCH) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROPOSER MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARCTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D)

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PARTS, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PEDRO A. TENORIO
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC LANDS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Theresita Aldan Paulis
PMB 1743 BOX 10002
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 233-4323

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For:	]	**FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0173**
Losau Jeffina Oveny Mality Minor Child,	]	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
By:	]	
Theresita Aldan Paulis Petitioner	]	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on May 02, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 11th day of April, 2013.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

WANTED

SPORTS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a full-time sports reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Above average writing skills, with strong grasp of grammar and syntax;
- Minimum two years' experience in sports writing;
- Must be able to write stories based on score sheets;
- Can work fast within deadlines and in a stressful environment;
- Must be able to work on holidays, weekends, late nights, and on short notice;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have own car.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email you résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. On-island hires preferred.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-018

RENEWABLE ENERGY INTEGRATION STUDY

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for a Renewable Energy Integration Study for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The focus of this Renewable Energy Integration Study will be:

- To determine how much variable renewable energy (Solar PV and Wind) can CUC economically integrate into its grid?
- To investigate the operational impact - at penetration levels ranging from 10% to 50% - for Solar PV and Wind generation.

A Power System Analysis software with a Renewable Energy module will be purchased and installed on CUC computers for grid studies and operations. The contractor will recommend and install the software on computers provided by CUC. The contractor will model CUC's grid and carry out related Load-flow, Short Circuit, Stability (dynamic and transient), Transient and Protection analysis, as well as simulations.

The study should address these questions:

1. What is the impact of up to 50% variable renewable energy penetration and how can this be accommodated?
2. How much Solar PV or Wind generation can be connected on any of CUC's 13.8KV distribution feeders? Can geographic diversity or distributed generation will help mitigate variability?
3. How spinning reserve should be modified to account for the variability in Wind and Solar PV generation. What is the additional cost of spinning due to this variability?
4. What is the increased O&M cost of diesel generators due to increased ramping and cycling?
5. What are the Short Circuit levels and currents at interconnection points on the grid?
6. What are the supply quality problems; including voltage stability /collapse and frequency fluctuations?

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on April 30, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-13-018,Renewable Energy Integration Study"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 20, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than May 10, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST) to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com and Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 81

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Bombers accomplished...nothing

Maybe, if the rest of us were on intimate terms with the Boston bombing suspects, they would confide to us their motives. Not the intuitively appealing motives that their biographies conveniently suggest, but the innermost reasons that propelled them. In these quests for rational explanations, Option One is always the same: They might have had no motivation more complex than joyful cruelty; ours is a world in which some people batter puppies.

If their thinking was that moronic, then they succeeded. They wounded nearly 200 families, some of whom forever will miss loved ones killed by explosives or gunfire.

This level of preparation, though, suggests that they had some motive more sophisticated than merely marauding through the lives of innocents. Not that these were pros: Terrorists in the age of plastic explosives who instead are reduced to packing nails inside pressure cookers are the modern equivalent of peasants wielding pikes—dangerous, but with sharply limited power.

Further proof that these were not prime-time players: You can judge any plot by the shrewdness of the getaway. In the case of Suspects 1 and 2, their slow-thinkery allegedly included tactics as impromptu and unreliable as carjacking, in which things often go wrong for the assailants. What's more, even the bumbling O.J. Simpson, on the lam in that white Ford Bronco, didn't have to interrupt his attempted escape with a stop at a bank ATM.

Still, let's stipulate that the bombers, however amateurish, were motivated by some urgent and heartfelt cause. Let's further stipulate that, in coming days or weeks, we'll learn beyond doubt about the motives of the killers who delivered bombs to Boylston Street.

Whatever that motivation, what have they achieved?

Well, they did temporarily capture our attention. On some level we yearn to understand what made them do this.

But that yearning doesn't flow from our deep desire to be influenced by their zealotry. We want to know what moved the bombers not so we can learn from them, or understand them, or sympathize with them, or even care about them. We want to know what moved them only so we can explain them away—and then prepare to intercept any future assault mounted by their ideological heirs.

The bombers haven't punished us for some sin, or avenged some humiliation, or converted us to some belief. Mostly, they've focused us on the victims they murdered or injured.

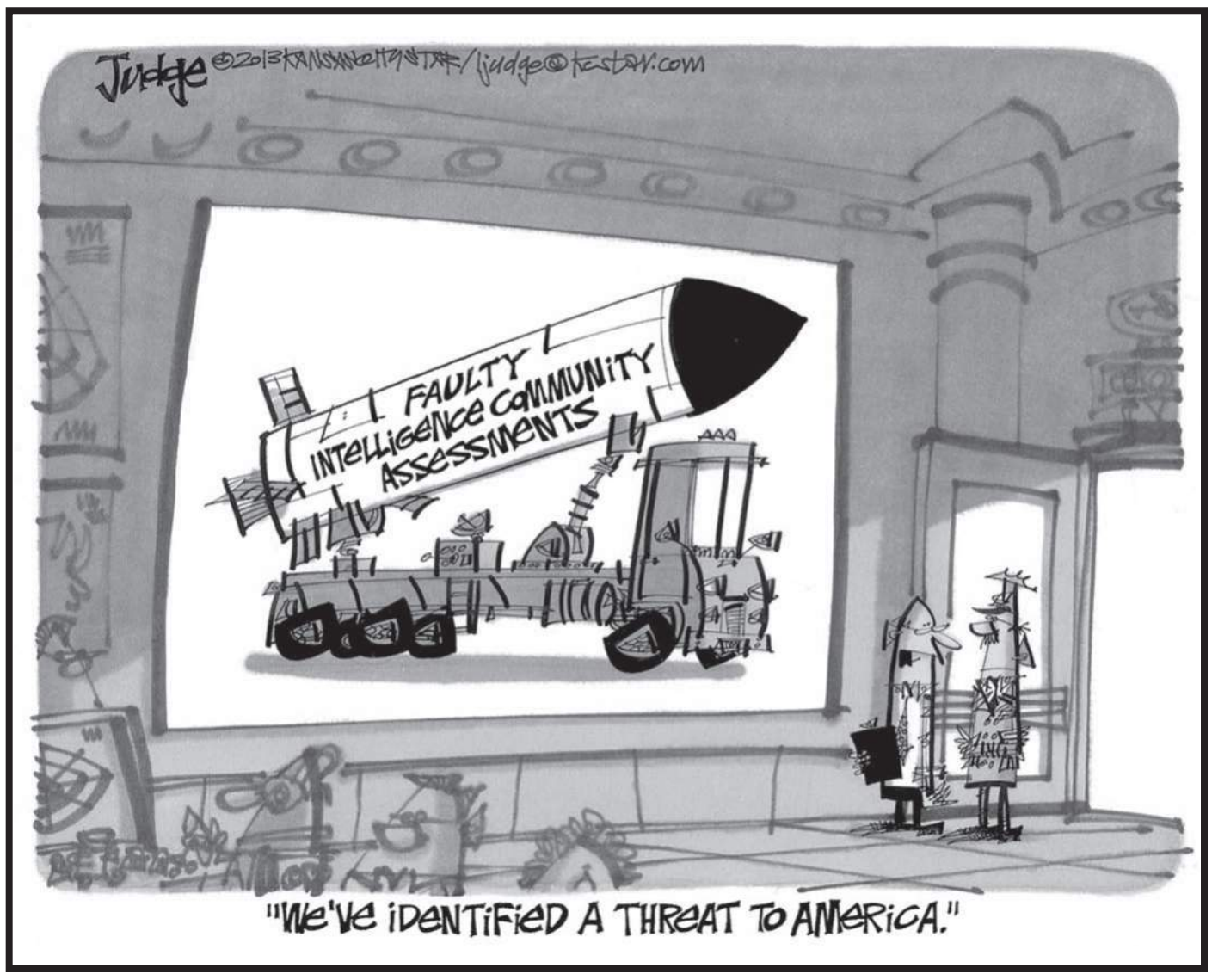
Which means that, for themselves and their cause, the bombers have accomplished ... nothing. They've failed.

America always will be bedeviled by low-rent terrorists. There's no good way of stopping them. Our history is rife with their assaults. We don't have to like that; we do have to live with it.

Sure, the architects of our national security hope to catch every schemer. But they direct the bulk of their efforts toward thwarting the biggest plots. Near the top of their list: For more than a decade, intelligence officials have spoken about their fear that some terrorist group will manage to ship a nuclear device, undetected, into a U.S. port. Preventing that is a difficult task, but at least there are only so many international ports. Monitoring retail sales of pressure cookers to dangerous people is all but impossible, even though those purchases can lead to tragedy.

Nor is there much definitive wisdom to be learned about "the mind of the terrorist." To delve into the research on profiling terrorists, a motley subspecies, is to be mired in contradictory and thus all but useless claims: Many terrorists thrive on the acceptance a terror cell offers them. Except many thrive by operating as lone wolves. Many terrorists embody anger without guilt. Ex-

See BOMBERS on Next Page


Judge ©2013 KANSAS CITY STAR/judge@kcstar.com
FAULTY INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS
"WE'VE IDENTIFIED A THREAT TO AMERICA."

Liang Bai Bai in Dubai

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church and was pastor of Saipan Immanuel UMC at the second millenium's turn. He now writes from China.

She was married at 24, a bit later than her peers. Tomboyish even after she had a baby boy, she let her husband go to East Germany to seek his fortune but the Berlin Wall came down and Wall Street took over. Hubby came home, tail between his legs. While resettling to regain livelihood and pride, she considered moving back to Mama's house.

Liang had not been a traditionally compliant wife. Though hardly bullish, the hubby was, nevertheless, conditioned to expect primacy in the household. He got the house since she initiated the proceedings that resulted in their divorce papers.

Her welder's job in the railroad company that her Papa secured for her where he worked got privatized during the government's move to divest of non-performing state-owned enterprises so she took the offer for early retirement, though benefits would not kick in until she was 45. She was a full decade early.

Liang gathered her savings, borrowed from friends and relatives, and bought herself a ticket to rich Dubai of the United Arab Emirates where she learned a Chinese can make a fortune waiting on restaurant tables. Her hometown sponsor, however, kept her passport; charged housing and food, and skimped on the employees to augment her loses in the gaming tables. Often, employees' meager pay was delayed. Nine months later, at the first chance when she regained control of her travel papers, she quit.

Not the only one in dire straights in the Gulf's premier city, she was among several stranded Chinese girls whose high school training was vocational rather than liberal arts, and their technical skills were not in high demand in the basically male-oriented city. The South Asian, North African, and Middle Eastern construction and clerical male workers were, however, far from home. Liang and the girls saw a gold mine.

Learning quickly the art of utilizing Lady Clairol and other Frenchified accoutrements, the homely lassies by day were gaily painted ladies at night. Assertive and still tomboyish, Liang organized, operated, and managed her human menagerie, often finding themselves in rich men's yacht off the coast of Kuwait, in resplendent pool sides at international hotels, and gyrating on top of pool tables when they were properly sauced with Scotch or vodka. Inhibitions got thrown out quickly to the dessert *ruah*. Dinar considerations pretty much settled issues.

The Texas Bushes smarted over Saddam's previous audacity in invading oil-rich Kuwait. They were also miffed by an arrogant ingrate among Saudi Arabia's bin Laden boys previously assisted by U.S. materials during the mujahedeen's repelling of Russian advances into the Kyber, who had since headed an effective al-Qaida network that was accused of orchestrating the towering inferno of 911. His simple lifestyle was also protected by the puritanical Taliban in Afghanistan.

Georgie and Cheney rounded up the boys and went after Saddam's head and oil. Osama bin Laden provided the excuse.

Liang got wind of the desert winds in time to get out of the area while the boys fought over real estate. She was not getting any younger and since China had a flourishing trade in snipping skin, tucking flesh, clipping in additional muscles where there was but a patina before, and aligning bones, she went for a facial remake, along with major implants on an otherwise crooked gums. The surgery backfired. After four months of rehab, she settled for a $50K insurance settlement, quite a bundle in local *renminbi*.

We got her story when she landed as a tourist on Saipan in 2009. A brief sojourn in the Middle East only left her memories; the girls returned with their savings to start new lives back home. She recalled for the telling the story of Hong Hong and Abdullah. Hong was pleasantly plump, which delighted diminutive Abdullah's Arabic requirements to no end. He could not get enough of her. Not a very bright light in the sandy marquee, he was, nevertheless, a minor scion of a wealthy family.

Abdullah professed his love for Hong to high heavens each time he came around, which was frequent. Liang finally had her fill of the desert mirages of Abdullah's imaginings that she grabbed him by the shoulders one day (she is a tomboy), looked him straight in the eye and said: "Hong Hong did not come to Dubai for love; she came for the money." She still got a lot of his money, especially after she refused to be No. 4 wife!

With an elementary command of English, Liang wanted to learn how to read and write. That's how I got started in promoting the virtue of speaking ChEnglish/EnglisCh.

She came to find a sailor in the Marianas, she said. Unfortunately, there were 10,000 other much younger girls who had similar thoughts, with a practical bent and under no illusion of anything but commercial gain in the game.

We did teach Liang methods on how she could teach herself. It was through dealing with her pedagogical requirements that we had the courage to try the same with university students in northeast China for the last two years.

Liang sent us her last email in 2010 when she was setting up kindergarten somewhere in Jiangsu, northwest of Shanghai. I am sure she was light years away from being Liang Bai Bai in Dubai.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Resident rep vs non-voting US delegate

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

A perceptive caller asked a three-part query on the role of the resident representative as provided under Sections 901 and 902 of the Covenant Agreement. They are: 1). Is it history? 2). Was it replaced by the opening of the NMI's non-voting delegate? Which arrangement was best for the NMI in her political relationship with the federal government and shouldn't both be retained for purposes of strengthening self-government?

For clarification purposes, I discussed the issue at length with former Houe speaker Oscar C. Rasa, given his institutional knowledge of the issue. He was a simultaneous member of the NMI political status commission and the Joint Commission on Future Political Status, Congress of Micronesia. Rasa is also academically competent, having been awarded lifetime credentials to teach college level courses on government (U.S. Government) on local and international relations. Such credentials are regulatory and statutory inherent under California state laws. But I digress.

Former governor Froilan Tenorio disagrees with the establishment of the non-voting delegate, saying there's greater latitude (benefit-wise) under the old office versus the current arrangement. Former senator David Cing supported the non-voting delegate but begins to see that there may be greater vantage point for the NMI under the previous arrangement.

Rasa pointed out that Section 902 was never amended nor repealed by the non-voting delegate law. Thus it remains "intact" given the nature of its role and functions that sets the path to forging meaningful and lasting relationship with the federal government. He said it is "basically executive in nature" and disagrees with the view that it was taken over by the establishment of an NMI non-voting delegate.

Advantage with State Department

Pertinent provision says in part that the Constitution or laws of the NMI may provide for an appointment or election of a resident representative "…entitled to receive official recognition as such representative by all of the departments and agencies of the government of the U.S. upon presentation through the Department of State of a certificate of selection from the governors."

Dealing with the Department of State is the strength we can't find under the new arrangement with a non-voting delegate. One is "executive" (resident rep), the latter is "legislative" (non-voting delegate).

Another provision says the two governments "will consult on a regular basis on matters affecting the relationship…" Furthermore, either side could request for consultation "and not less frequently than every 10 years," both heads of governments "will designate special representatives to meet and consider in good faith such issues affecting the relationship…"

"Special representatives will be appointed in any event to make recommendations regarding future multi-year financial assistance to the Northern Mariana Islands pursuant to Section 701, to meet at least one year prior to the expiration of every period of such financial assistance."

Need to revisit issue

I am in agreement with the former speaker that the role of the office is basically "executive" in nature and pertinent sections didn't provide for a sunset clause. It remains intact for all intent and purposes. It fizzled as though it doesn't exist because we grandly ignored its very essence in helping the NMI build stronger self-government.

It's important to understand too that the non-voting delegate's roles and functions are legislative in nature, full square. There was never coalescence that the resident representative's roles and functions would dissolve upon the NMI being given a non-voting delegate. It invites an understanding the concept of three but equal branches of government or separation of powers.

In more ways than one, the resident representative has greater stature and opportunity in moving the intended agenda of strengthening self-government, given its direct access to all departments and agencies of the federal government. Section 904 attests to U.S. commitment to build the economic foundation of the NMI. It clearly says:

The federal government "will give sympathetic consideration to the views of the NMI on international matters…will provide opportunities for effective presentation of such views to no less extent than such opportunities are provided any other territory or possession under comparable circumstances."

Even more importantly, at our request we "can participate in regional and other international organizations concerned with social, economic, educational, scientific, technical and cultural matters when similar participation is authorized for any other territory or possession of the U.S...."

Let's rebuild bridge

A critical review of these provisions presents a glimpse of the enormity of the roles and functions of the resident representative under the Covenant Agreement. That we ignored it resulted in the unjustified transfer of executive responsibility to the NMI's non-voting delegate. In my view, the silence literally ignored the very bridge we needed to work in partnership with Washington, from financial assistance and education to healthcare and culture, among others.

It's an opportunity lost that must be revisited ASAP to realign what was intended under the agreement. Unless we bring the issue to President Obama, then it simply means giving our non-voting delegate a workload that runs against his legislative role—working on policy matters.

It should also be understood that each state has its own bona fide representative in both chambers of the U.S. Congress. While the NMI has its place at the lowest part of the political totem pole, it is granted the sterling insult of its non-voting delegate's vote counting when it doesn't, and doesn't when it does. It's more the reason to revive the resident representative's office to fulfill its executive roles and functions as penned under the Covenant Agreement.

At least, I'm satisfied with the foresight inherent under Sections 901 and 902 of the agreement. Uncle Sam saw the need for it. We thought we did. We didn't! That the NMI consistently sinks into its own filth in economic cataclysm is another reason to revisit this issue. We owe it to posterity!

Obama's legacy: Consoler in chief

By RICHARD PARKER
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

The morning after the explosion, the Texas sky turns gray and cold. Then the clouds open and pour rain down on the dead, the wounded and what's left of the smoldering town of West.

The police finally announce that between five and 15 are dead and 160 have gone to hospitals. Even as the body count is released in Texas, a memorial unfolds in Boston for those slain earlier in this week's bombing. And it is, after all, just a few short months after the horror of Newtown, Conn.

Of course, there will never be enough measured words from authorities, eloquence from politicians or tales of heroism and resiliency to make up for all that was lost in all these places and others in recent years. But it is hard not to notice that the country has entered a second full decade of hair-trigger uncertainty. It is equally hard not to notice that perhaps the Obama presidency will not be measured by his successes but by his solace; not the place in history a president wishes to occupy.

West, Texas, is a tiny town of fewer than 3,000 people; you can see the whole town, pretty much, from I-35. Until this week it was modestly famous as a place for great kolaches and a festival that celebrated the town's Czech immigrant heritage. Indeed, there was no Czech pun the town could pass up. There is the Czech Stop and the motel, the Czech Inn. But there was nothing funny about death and devastation that visited Wednesday night in an explosion that was measured on a Richter scale at 2.1 in Amarillo—400 miles away.

Sadly, this little corner of Texas has always had its share of April tragedies. Twenty years ago this week, the federal government's disastrous raid on the Branch Davidian compound resulted in nearly 80 deaths in nearby Waco. A little farther south and a few years later, in May 1997 the F5 Jarrell Tornado literally wiped the subdivision of Double Creek Estates right off the map, taking with it 27 lives.

What happened to West may not have been as fatal but it is not any less cause for disbelief.

"This is just a small town," says Joey Oliver, who is working the front desk at the Czech Inn. His long sigh says almost as much as his words: "It's something we never expected to happen."

Everyone must endure hardship and many must endure tragedy in life. And mass tragedy differs from private ones only in one sense: one is shared and the other must be endured alone. The president has already called the governor; the government machinery of disaster relief is cranking up again. I wonder if the president will visit West next. He has already had to visit so many places: Fort Hood, Tucson, Aurora, New Jersey, New York, Newtown, Boston. It is part of the symbolic duty of presidents, after all.

But he has precious few successes to show as president. One can blame the Republicans, the deficit or polarized politics but the point stands. And worse, the country he helps govern continues to be wracked by uncertainty, not merely economic or political. In January, a Gallup poll found that most people believed that taxes and crime would rise, economic difficulty would increase and American power would fall.

Of course, most things in life are far beyond our control. But in the public square, at least, fatalism should not creep into governing in an effort to stave off disaster and tragedy or recover from it. And yet, this president may wind up known more for consoling and mourning than anything else. It wouldn't even be his fault. The country entered an era of tumult and uncertainty on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001—and well more than a decade later it has not climbed out of it. Millions remain out of work; millions have lost their homes.

The world's most powerful nation dwells at the intersection of uncertainty and anxiety. Of course, the president would make the case that it could have been worse. Perhaps, though it is impossible to prove the negative. But at this rate, a snapshot of this era taken from the future may well show the images of fear and tragedy and a tall, lonesome looking president at memorials, hospital beds and gravesides.

Of course, one president's legacy does not stack up to the fates of hundreds or thousands or hundreds of millions. And George Will once wrote that we don't need a president to console us. It's true, in a sense. We are not infants. Yet presidents are judged in history almost as much by how they made a country feel about itself as what they accomplished.

And with so few precious accomplishments in Washington and so many dark occasions such as the ones that visited Newtown, Boston and now, West, this president may best be remembered by how he led in these. It is probably not the legacy he would have wanted.

Richard Parker is a regular contributor to the Op-Ed section of The New York Times, the Columbia Journalism Review, The New Republic and McClatchy-Tribune. *He lives in Austin, Texas.*

BOMBERS

From Page 10

cept many can only maim people they don't know. And so on.

The Boston massacre no doubt will help authorities worldwide rethink security preparations for mass events. We'll all hear useful talk about the ways in which safety agencies are constantly thinking about the next possible threat.

All good, although there's only so much that security planners can do. We're best able to stay safe by exerting vigilance and initiative: British Prime Minister Tony Blair famously observed in 2005 that while the attacks of 9/11 were a wake-up call, many among us "turned over and went back to sleep again."

The simple imperative, then, for all of us: Resist the seduction to see terror is yesteryear's news. It isn't. This nation will endure more attacks. The question isn't whether, but when.

A codicil: We hope that every one of those future attacks, like the bombs of Boston, accomplishes nothing.

©2013 Chicago Tribune

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼76°

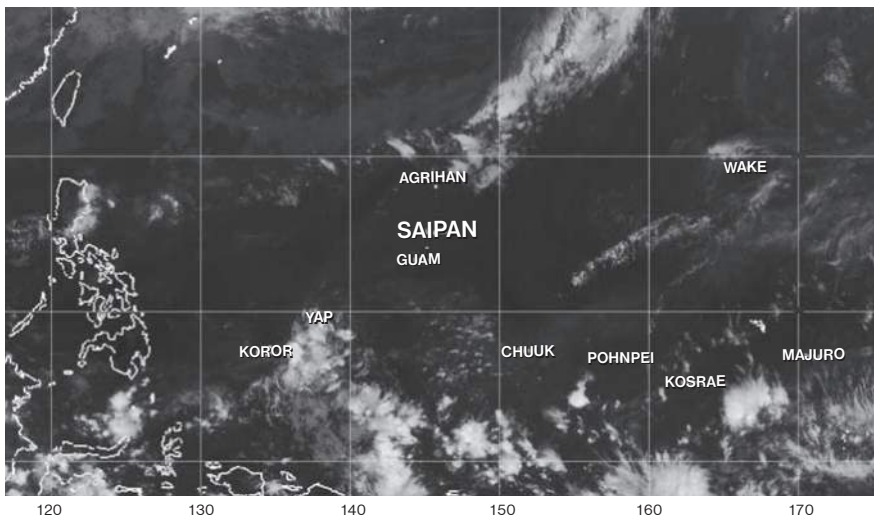
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲89	▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲91	▼78
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼63
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼49
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲79	▼73
Honolulu	Showers	▲82	▼72
London	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼53
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼55
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲95	▼84
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲69	▼53
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼72
New York	Showers	▲74	▼47
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼54
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼56
Pusan	Windy	▲65	▼49
Rome	Cloudy	▲77	▼62
Salem	Sunny	▲74	▼46
San Francisco	Sunny	▲71	▼53
Seoul	Showers	▲59	▼45
Tokyo	Showers	▲68	▼56
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲78	▼49

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from near Minami Tori Shima at 25N154E to 20N140E then backs as a stationary front to 25N130E. The remains of a shear line follows from this system near 20N140E to beyond 130E at 17N. Clouds and patchy showers are found along and up to 200 miles north and west of this frontal boundary. Some patchy showers and thunderstorms linger just south of the front and north of the Mariana Islands from 18N to 22N between 144E and 151E. Farther to the east and south of Wake Island a weak shear line exists from 17N165E to 18N180E and contains mostly low clouds in scattered showers within 50 miles of this line. A trade-wind disturbance has moved westward to just south of Yap and east of Koror bringing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from 4N to 10N between 135E and 140E southeast of this area. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are also occurring along the equatorial trough from the equator to 4N between 140E and 152E. This lies southwest of Chuuk. Elsewhere, broad tradewind convergence is helping generate patches of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from the equator to 5N between 155E to 180. In general, this is well south of the major Island groups in Pohnpei state, Kosare, and the Marshalls.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:13 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
7:08 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:49 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
8:04 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:58 AM	6:33 PM
Thursday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:56 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:02 PM	4:20 AM
Thursday	6:01 PM	5:07 AM
Friday	7:03 PM	5:57 AM
Saturday	8:05 PM	6:51 AM
Sunday	9:08 PM	7:49 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 4, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:45am+1	Daily
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN			
SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:05am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Flight delays pile up amid FAA budget cuts

AP

An American Airlines plane takes off at LAX International airport in Los Angeles Monday, April 22, 2013.

NEW YORK (AP)—Flight delays piled up across the country Monday as thousands of air traffic controllers began taking unpaid days off because of federal budget cuts, providing the most visible impact yet of Congress and the White House's failure to agree on a long-term deficit-reduction plan.

The Federal Aviation Administration kept planes on the ground because there weren't enough controllers to monitor busy air corridors. Cascading delays held up flights at some of nation's busiest airports, including New York, Baltimore and Washington. Many operations were more than two hours behind schedule.

At one point, the delays were so bad that passengers on several Washington-New York shuttle flights could have reached their destination faster by taking the train.

Nearly a third of flights at New York's LaGuardia airport scheduled to take off before 3 p.m. were delayed 15 minutes or more, according to flight-tracking service FlightAware. Last Monday, just 6 percent of LaGuardia's flights were delayed.

The situation was similar at Washington's Reagan National Airport, in Newark, N.J., and in Philadelphia, with roughly 20 percent of flights delayed.

At airports, Monday is typically one of the busiest days, when many high-paying business travelers depart for a week on the road. The FAA's controller cuts—a 10 percent reduction of its staff—went into effect Sunday. The full force was not felt until Monday morning.

Travel writer Tim Leffel had just boarded a US Airways plane from Charlotte, N.C., to Tampa, when the flight crew had an announcement.

"They said: `The weather's fine, but there aren't enough air traffic controllers,'" Leffel said. Passengers were asked to head back into the terminal. "People were just kind of rolling their eyes."

His flight landed one hour and 13 minutes late.

One thing working in fliers' favor Monday was relatively good weather at most major airports. A few wind gusts in New York, snow in Denver and thunderstorms in Miami added to some delays, but generally there were clear skies and no major storms.

However, the furloughs will continue for months, raising the risk of a turbulent summer travel season. And the lack of controllers could exacerbate weather problems, especially spring and summer thunderstorms.

There's no way for passengers to tell in advance which airport or flights will experience delays.

FHB reports Q1 earnings of $52.6 million

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank announced yesterday 2013 first quarter net income of $52.6 million, compared to $56.8 million earned in the first quarter of 2012. Loans reached a record $9.1 billion, an increase of 7.6 percent over 2012. The announcement was made by Bob Harrison, First Hawaiian Bank president and chief executive officer.

» Loans reach record $9.1 billion

"During the quarter we saw steady loan and deposit growth, buoyed by an expanding local economy," Harrison said. "Our earnings were affected by the low interest rate environment which puts pressure on net interest income. Loan balances reached an all-time high as consumer and business confidence continued to improve."

Compared to the previous year, for the first three months ending March 31, 2013, First Hawaiian achieved the following:

■ **Total Assets**: grew to $16.4 billion, an increase of 1.6 percent.

■ **Deposits**: were $12.9 billion, up 3.4 percent.

■ **Loans and Leases**: were $9.1 billion, a 7.6 percent increase.

■ **Non-Performing Assets to Total Assets**: remained one of the best in the U.S. at 0.27 percent

■ **Efficiency Ratio**: of 45.6 percent, making First Hawaiian the most productive bank in Hawaii.

For the first quarter of 2013, First Hawaiian achieved the following accomplishments:

■ First Hawaiian Bank secured $450,000 Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle Affordable Housing Award for Veterans' Housing development in Kapolei. It was the only Hawaii Bank to receive this award.

■ In February, First Hawaiian became the first local bank to introduce an iPad App for its FHB Online Banking Services.

■ The recently released 1Q 2013 First Hawaiian Bank Hawaii Business Activity Report showed debit and credit card sales transactions for same store comparisons were up 10.81 percent, the highest of any first quarter to date, with gains over prior year in all 16 sectors. The Guam Business Activity Report also showed 8 out of the 11 sectors with positive gains over year prior.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com) with $16.4 billion in total assets was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BNP Paribas, a leading global financial services institution. ***(FHB)***

Drop in gas prices benefits US drivers, economy

NEW YORK (AP)—A sharp decline in the price of oil this month is making gasoline cheaper at a time of year when it typically gets more expensive. It's a relief to motorists and business owners and a positive development for the economy.

Over the past three weeks, the price of oil has fallen by 9 percent to $89 a barrel. That has helped extend a slide in gasoline prices that began in late February. Nationwide, average retail prices have fallen by 27 cents per gallon, or 7 percent, since Feb. 27, to $3.52 per gallon. Analysts say pump prices could fall another 20 cents over the next two months.

The price of oil is being driven lower by rising global supplies and lower-than-expected demand in the world's two largest economies, the United States and China. As oil and gasoline become more affordable, the economy benefits because goods become less expensive to transport and motorists have more money to spend on other things. Over the course of a year, a decline of 10 cents per gallon translates to $13 billion in savings at the pump.

Diesel and jet fuel have also gotten cheaper in recent weeks, which is good news for truckers, airlines and other energy-intensive businesses.

"It makes a big difference to my bottom line," says Mike Mitternight, owner of a heating and air conditioning service company in Metairie, La. He has five pickup trucks that can burn $1,000 of gas per week when prices are near $4 a gallon. Lately he's been paying as little as $3.19, and saving $200 a week.

Gasoline prices typically rise in the late winter and spring as refiners shut down parts of their plants to perform maintenance and begin making more costly blends of gasoline required by federal clean-air regulations. The trend was earlier and less dramatic this year. Pump prices only came within 15 cents of last year's peak.

APAFS expands into South Pacific

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Photo was taken during a recent visit by Raaj Kurapati to American Samoa. Raaj is a member of the APAFS board of governors, and serves as chairman of the membership committee. From left to right are: Dr. Dan Aga, dean/director, Community and Natural Resources, ASCC; Emey Silafau, chief financial officer, ASCC; and, Raaj Kurapati, associate vice chancellor, financial services and business operations at Univeristy of Alaska Fairbanks, and APAFS board of governors, chairman of membership committee.

With the goal of expanding its educational reach into the south pacific, the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies recently announced its newest member, the American Samoa Community College.

ASCC is now the first of many organizations APAFS hopes to gain as members in the region. In order to consummate the relationship, APAFS board member Raaj Kurapati made the trip to American Samoa to meet the officials of ASCC and welcome Emey Silafau, as APAFS's newest member of the board.

Silafau is the CFO of ASCC and a graduate of Golden Gate University in California. She was born in South San Francisco and was an accountant for the Sierra Club Foundation until she moved to American Samoa and began work at ASCC in 2002.

Dan Roland, executive director of APAFS stated, "Emey is a great addition to the association. Her work with the Sierra Club and with the ASCC gives her the right blend of experience for our diverse group. I look forward to her representation."

Raaj added, "My visit with Emey and ASCC was exceptional. I look forward to the many contributions to be made by the College."

ASCC was established in 1970 to provide post-secondary education opportunities to the residents of American Samoa. ASCC is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. ASCC offers associate of arts and associate of science degrees, as well as certificate programs in a variety of academic and technical areas.

ASCC is located on Tutuila, the largest of American Samoa's seven islands in the village of Mapusaga, nine miles west of Pago Pago, the territory's center of trade and commerce.

The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies is a Guam 501c3 non-profit educational association. APAFS was founded in 20000 for and by, representatives from public and private institutional funds from throughout the Asia Pacific Region.

The goal of APAFS is to raise the level of understanding and standards of practice among fiduciaries in the region, so that they may provide the most prudent stewardship of the funds entrusted to their care. More can be found at www.apafs.org. ***(PR)***

Nation

Supporters: Don't link immigration bill to Boston

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democratic supporters of a new immigration bill accused opponents Monday of trying to "exploit" the Boston Marathon bombings to hold up the legislation, sparking a testy exchange at a Senate hearing.

"I never said that! I never said that!" Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, interjected as Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., a lead author of the bill, criticized "those who are pointing to what happened, the terrible tragedy in Boston, as a, I would say, excuse for not doing a bill or delaying it."

Schumer said he wasn't talking about Grassley, who said last week that the bombings, allegedly carried out by two immigrant brothers, raised question about gaps in the U.S. immigration system that should be examined in context of the new bill. Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., banged his gavel to settle the proceedings.

The exchange came as the Judiciary Committee opened its second hearing on sweeping legislation to strengthen border security, allow tens of thousands of new high- and low-skilled workers into the country, require all employers to check their workers' legal status, and provide an eventual path to citizenship for some 11 million immigrants now here illegally.

AP

Youths with the National People's Action group link arms in solidarity for immigration reform outside the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on immigration reform, Monday, April 22 2013, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

The obstacles to the legislation, released last week by a group of four Republican and four Democratic senators, were on stark display Monday. Polls show majority public backing for comprehensive legislation including a path to citizenship, and many Republicans also support such an approach. But in some corners, opposition has not wavered. That became clear as GOP senators took turns offering critiques.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, called a path to citizenship "divisive," and said that "any bill that insists upon that jeopardizes the likelihood of passing any immigration reform bill."

Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., contended that the new bill would drive down wages and eliminate jobs for American workers.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said the border security piece of the bill "falls well short of the sponsors' aspiration to protect the borders and maintain U.S. sovereignty."

And Grassley said new requirements mandating employers to verify employees' legal status are ineffective.

Republicans weren't the only ones to find the legislation wanting. Several Democrats expressed concerns over the exclusion of provisions to recognize gay marriages for immigration purposes. Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., promised to fight to get such a measure included—something Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., has said could sink the bill.

Rows of spectators looked on wearing white T-shirts reading "Keep Families Together" as senators heard Monday from business and labor leaders, immigration advocates and opponents of reform, and others.

But as happened at the first hearing on the bill, on Friday, the Boston Marathon bombings colored the proceedings.

The attacks were allegedly carried out by two ethnic Chechen immigrant brothers who both arrived legally in the U.S. about a decade ago and sought asylum. One was a legal permanent resident and the other a naturalized U.S. citizen. On Monday, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., joined Grassley and others who've suggested that the bombings showed the need to examine national security and the U.S. immigration system.

"We should not proceed until we understand the specific failures of our immigration system," Paul wrote in a letter to Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. Paul said that national security protections must be part of any immigration legislation to ensure the federal government does everything it can to keep immigrants "with malicious intent" from using the immigration system to enter the country to commit acts of terror.

Some Democrats suggest that the true motive behind at least some voicing such concerns is to oppose immigration legislation. Leahy used part of his opening statement Monday to assert that opponents of immigration reform had begun "to exploit the Boston Marathon bombing."

Boston bomb suspect charged; religious motive seen

BOSTON (AP)—The two brothers suspected of bombing the Boston Marathon appear to have been motivated by a radical brand of Islam but do not seem connected to any Muslim terrorist groups, U.S. officials said Monday after interrogating and charging Dzhokhar Tsarnaev with crimes that could bring the death penalty.

Tsarnaev, 19, was charged in his hospital room, where he was in serious condition with a gunshot wound to the throat and other injuries suffered during his attempted getaway. His older brother, Tamerlan, 26, died Friday after a fierce gunbattle with police.

The Massachusetts college student was charged with using and conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction. He was accused of joining with his brother in setting off the shrapnel-packed pressure-cooker bombs that killed three people and wounded more than 200 a week ago.

Tsarnaev

The brothers, ethnic Chechens from Russia who had been living in the U.S. for about a decade, practiced Islam.

Two U.S. officials said preliminary evidence from the younger man's interrogation suggests the brothers were motivated by religious extremism but were apparently not involved with Islamic terrorist organizations.

Dzhokhar communicated with his interrogators in writing, precluding the type of back-and-forth exchanges often crucial to establishing key facts, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly.

They cautioned that they were still trying to verify what they were told by Tsarnaev and were looking at such things as his telephone and online communications and his associations with others.

In the criminal complaint outlining the allegations, investigators said Tsarnaev and his brother each placed a knapsack containing a bomb in the crowd near the finish line of the 26.2-mile race.

The FBI said surveillance-camera footage showed Dzhokhar manipulating his cellphone and lifting it to his ear just instants before the two blasts.

After the first blast, a block away from Dzhokhar, "virtually every head turns to the east ... and stares in that direction in apparent bewilderment and alarm," the complaint says. Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, "virtually alone of the individuals in front of the restaurant, appears calm." He then quickly walked away, leaving a knapsack on the ground; about 10 seconds later, a bomb blew up at the spot where he had been standing, the FBI said.

Suburbs now playing a key role in gun legislation

QUAKERTOWN, Pa. (AP)—In the emotional politics of gun control, the suburbs seem to be emerging as a new sphere of influence.

The Senate's defeat last week of firearms restrictions underscored the nation's shifting demographics and a pronounced divide on the gun issue between Americans in rural areas and residents of suburban enclaves, like Quakertown, outside Philadelphia.

Packed with married women and political independents, voterich communities like these are starting—in the wake of a string of shooting massacres—to act more like urban centers that long have been concerned with the threat of local gun violence and have favored stricter laws. Those include the expansion of background checks, viewed by gun control advocates as a way to prevent criminals and the mentally ill from buying firearms.

Like most Pennsylvania voters, Lisa Inglis, 43, a stay-at-home mom of two from the Philadelphia suburbs, is a supporter of expanded checks of gun buyers, part of the legislation defeated last week. She said she was very disappointed by the Senate action, though she also questioned whether such measures would prevent many crimes.

"The reality hits you that nobody can keep anybody safe. You really depend on the stability of other people's thinking. You just hope for the best," said Inglis, eating at John's Plain & Fancy Diner in Quakertown, about 45 miles north of Philadelphia.

Voters like her in suburbs like this are a big reason why a handful of Republican lawmakers broke ranks with the GOP last week to support the expanded checks, raising the possibility that gun control could end up becoming more acceptable to other Republicans as suburbs in swing-voting states swell and push farther into rural areas where people cherish their gun rights.

ACROSS THE NATION

NY brothers' $5 million lottery theft trial starts

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP)—Two brothers accused of stealing a winning $5 million scratch-off lottery ticket became agitated and angry when questioned about it, and one of them threatened to destroy it, a state lottery official testified Monday. "I'll rip up this ticket right now," lottery division clerk Joan China quoted Nayel Ashkar as saying during a March 2012 interview. China testified that Ashkar asked a lottery security investigator if he was accusing him of something. The trial for Nayel Ashkar, 36, and Andy Ashkar, 34, began Monday in Onondaga County Court after the brothers signed waivers allowing Judge Joseph Fahey to rule from the bench.

Mississippi River reopens after barges hit bridge

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—A Mississippi River bridge where a shipping barge accident took place Sunday is difficult to navigate because it's near a bend in the river at Vicksburg, bridge superintendent Herman Smith said Monday. The railroad bridge averages 1.5 accidents per year, Smith said. It's the older of two bridges spanning the Mississippi River at Vicksburg. The newer span carries Interstate 20 traffic between Mississippi and Louisiana. About 30 barges broke free from a string under tow Sunday morning. Some struck the railroad bridge, and one barge carrying petroleum coke sank, according to the Coast Guard.

Asia

IAEA: Japan nuke cleanup may take more than 40 yrs.

TOKYO (AP)—A U.N. nuclear watchdog team said Japan may need longer than the projected 40 years to decommission its tsunami-crippled nuclear plant and urged its operator to improve plant stability.

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency team, Juan Carlos Lentijo, said Monday that damage at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant is so complex that it is impossible to predict how long the cleanup may last.

"As for the duration of the decommissioning project, this is something that you can define in your plans. But in my view, it will be nearly impossible to ensure the time for decommissioning such a complex facility in less than 30-40 years as it is currently established in the roadmap," Lentijo said.

The government and plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. have predicted the cleanup would take up to 40 years. They still have to develop technology and equipment that can operate under fatally high radiation levels to locate and remove melted fuel. The reactors must be kept cool and the plant must stay safe and stable, and those efforts to ensure safety could slow the process down.

AP

In this March 6, 2013 file photo, journalists wearing protective gears are escorted to the damaged No. 4 reactor building and an under construction foundation, center right, which will store the reactor's melted fuel rods, at the tsunami-crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in Okuma town, Fukushima prefecture, northeast of Tokyo.

"You have to adopt a very cautious position to ensure that you always are working on the safe side," Lentijo said.

The plant still runs on makeshift equipment and frequently suffers glitches. Just over the past few weeks, the plant suffered nearly a dozen problems ranging from extensive power outages and leaks of highly radioactive water from underground water pools. On Monday, TEPCO had to stop the cooling system for one of the fuel storage pools for safety checks after finding two dead rats inside a transformer box.

Earlier this month, a rat short-circuited a switchboard, causing an extensive outage and cooling loss for up to 30 hours. Lentijo said water management is "probably the most challenging" task for the plant at the moment.

The problems have raised concerns about whether the plant, crippled by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, can stay intact throughout a decommissioning process. The problems have prompted officials to compile risk-reduction measures and review decommissioning plans.

Lentijo, an expert on nuclear fuel cycles and waste technology, warned of more problems to come.

"It is expectable in such a complex site, additional incidence will occur as it happened in the nuclear plants under normal operations," Lentijo said. "It is important to have a very good capability to identify as promptly as possible failures and to establish compensatory measures."

He said TEPCO's risk communication and disclosures have been problematic and urged the utility to take extra steps to regain public trust.

The IAEA team urged the plant operator to "improve the reliability of essential systems to assess the structural integrity of site facilities, and to enhance protection against external hazards" and promptly replace temporary equipment with a more reliable, permanent system.

Sea disputes, NKorea in spotlight at ASEAN summit

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei (AP)—Worried that long-seething rifts could escalate over the South China Sea, Southeast Asian leaders are expected this week to press China to agree to start negotiations on a new pact aimed at thwarting a major clash in one of the world's busiest waterways.

Concern over North Korea's latest threats is also expected to gain attention over economic issues in the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, being held Wednesday and Thursday in Brunei's capital of Bandar Seri Begawan.

The 10-nation bloc is scrambling to beat a deadline to transform the strikingly diverse region of 600 million people into a European Union-like community by the end of 2015.

About 77 percent of the work to turn the bustling region into a single market and production base, first laid out in a 2007 blueprint, have been done, according to a draft statement to be issued after the summit. The document did not detail what still needed to be done.

The statement, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press on Monday, would reaffirm the ASEAN leaders' commitment to ensure the peaceful resolution of South China Sea conflicts in accordance with international law "without resorting to the threat or use of force."

They would call for "the early adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea," referring to a legally binding pact ASEAN would like to forge with China to replace a 2002 nonaggression accord that has failed to stop territorial skirmishes.

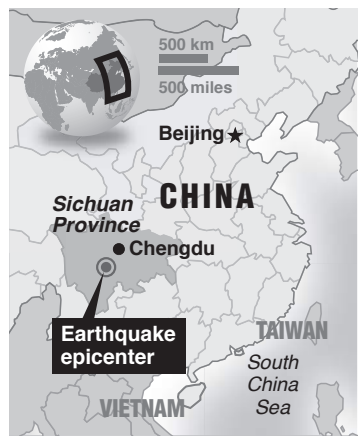
China, Taiwan and ASEAN members Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam have overlapping claims across the South China Sea, which Beijing claims in its entirety. The Philippines and Vietnam in particular have been at odds with China over the region in recent years, with diplomatic squabbles erupting over oil and gas exploration and fishing rights.

Portable ATMs, phone-charging in China quake zone

LUSHAN, China (AP)—The tent village that sprang up in two days to house quake survivors in mountain-flanked Lushan is no ordinary refugee camp. China's full range of disaster response is on display: Trucks with x-ray equipment, phone-charging stations, bank tellers-on-wheels—even a tent for insurance claims.

The efforts under way Monday in mountainous Sichuan province after a quake Saturday that killed at least 188 people showed that the government has continued to hone its disaster reaction—long considered a crucial leadership test in China—since a much more devastating earthquake in 2008, also in Sichuan, and another one in 2010 in the western region of Yushu.

"Lushan was so heavily hit and my family's house toppled. It has been such a disaster for us," said Yue Hejun, 28, as he waited to recharge his family's three mobile phones at a charging stall, volunteered by a communications company and coordinated by the government in a new addition to the arsenal of services after natural disasters. "If we can charge our phones, we are at least able to keep in touch with our family members outside and that helps to set our minds at ease."



Quake in China

A 6.6 magnitude quake hit Lushan county, a remote and rural part of China.

What is known

- At least 188 killed, more than 11,500 serious injuries
- More than 18,000 soldiers and police are involved in rescue effort
- Rescue progress hampered by narrow roads, landslides and powerful aftershocks

Source: ESRI, BBC © 2012 MCT

At a mini-clinic with two green cots in the open air and a small tent for doctors to sleep, a doctor said the government has learned the importance of fast coordination since the Yushu quake, which killed more than 2,600 people. Much of the initial relief in that disaster came from Buddhist monks and other non-government volunteers, partly because of the remoteness of much of the affected areas.

"After 24 hours or 48 hours in Yushu, things were not so orderly or settled in," said the doctor, who like many government officials would give only her surname, Luo. "The government's quick, organized response is very important. It's no use to blindly come here and try to save people."

Helicopters have been an obvious presence in the latest rescue efforts, used to reach outlying communities, unlike in 2008 when bad weather hampered their use in the critical first 36 hours. This time, better use of helicopters for reconnaissance—with remote sensing technology—and for the distribution of aid has allowed help to get out more quickly to where it is needed, said Teng Wuxiao, director of the Institute of Urban Public Security at Fudan University in Shanghai.

Rights group: Myanmar unrest is 'ethnic cleansing'

BANGKOK (AP)—A leading international rights group on Monday accused authorities in Myanmar, including Buddhist monks, of fomenting an organized campaign of ethnic cleansing against the country's Rohingya Muslim minority that killed hundreds of people and forced 125,000 from their homes.

Human Rights Watch also described the bloody wave of violence and massacres in western Rakhine state last year as crimes against humanity, and slammed the government of President Thein Sein for failing to bring the perpetrators to justice months after mobs of Buddhists armed with machetes and homemade guns razed thousands of Muslim homes.

While state security forces sometimes intervened to protect fleeing Muslims, more often they fueled the unrest, the rights group said, either by standing by idle or directly participating in atrocities. One soldier reportedly told a Muslim man whose village was ablaze: "The only thing you can do is pray to save your lives."

The allegations, detailed in a new report by the New York-based rights group, came the same day the European Union lifted all sanctions on Myanmar except an arms embargo to reward the Southeast Asian nation for its progress toward democratic rule.

Win Myaing, a government spokesman for Rakhine state, strongly rejected the allegations against state security forces, saying Human Rights Watch investigators "don't understand the situation on the ground."

He said there the government had no prior knowledge of impending attacks and deployed forces to stop the unrest.

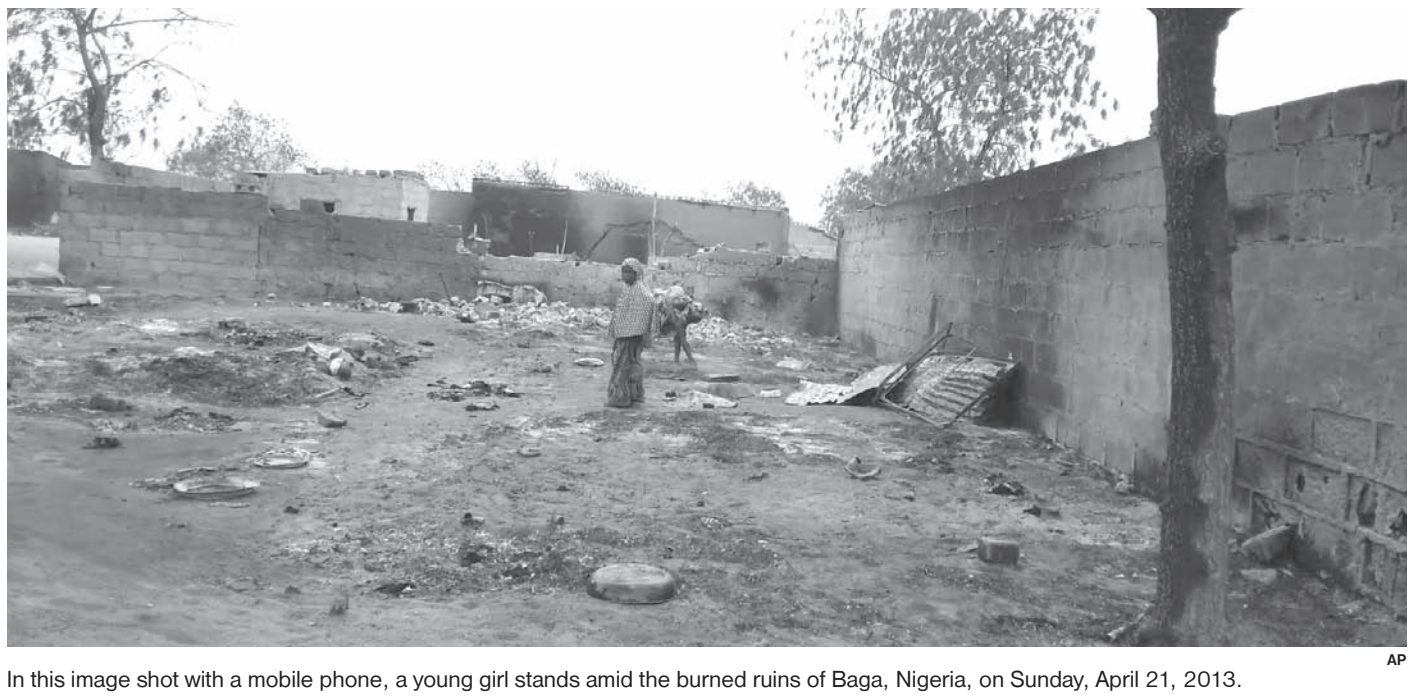
"We don't want unrest in the country because such incidents stall the democratic process and affect development," he said.

World

Red Cross: At least 187 killed in Nigeria violence

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Fighting between soldiers and Islamic extremists in northeast Nigeria killed at least 187 people, the worst single incident of violence in the region since an insurgency there began three years ago, an aid agency said Monday.

Nigeria's military blocked access for relief officials to enter the town of Baga, which sits along the shores of Lake Chad in the nation's far northeast, said Nwakpa O. Nwakpa, a Red Cross spokesman. Another 77 people are receiving medical care there in the ruins of a town where some 300 homes burned down, he said. Local residents blamed angry soldiers for burning down neighborhoods where they knew civilians were hiding.



AP

In this image shot with a mobile phone, a young girl stands amid the burned ruins of Baga, Nigeria, on Sunday, April 21, 2013.

"Our volunteers are on standby," Nwakpa said. "We are yet to be provided clearance." The fighting in Baga began Friday and lasted for hours, sending people fleeing into the arid scrublands surrounding the community. By the time Borno state officials could reach the city Sunday, a local government official said at least 185 people were killed, something not disputed by a brigadier general who attended the visit.

Officials could not offer a breakdown of civilian casualties versus those of soldiers and extremist fighters. Many of the bodies had been burned beyond recognition in fires that razed whole sections of the town, residents said. Those killed were buried as soon as possible, following local Muslim tradition.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed shock and sadness at the high civilian casualty toll and large number of homes destroyed and called on extremist groups to cease their attacks, U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky said.

"The secretary-general reiterates his firm conviction that no objective sought can justify this resort to violence," Nesirky said. "He underscores the need for all concerned to fully respect human rights and safeguard the lives of civilians."

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, who appeared at an event Monday on the nation's power supply at the Aso Rock presidential villa in the country's capital, did not comment on the killings there. A few hours after Ban's statement, Jonathan's office issued a release saying he had ordered "a full-scale investigation into reports of high civilian casualties."

The "administration will continue to do everything possible to avoid the killing or injuring of innocent bystanders in security operations against terrorists and insurgents," the statement read. "Rules of engagement for the military and security agencies are already in place for this purpose and the investigation ordered by President Jonathan into the incident in Baga is to amongst other things, determine whether or not these rules were fully complied with."

The statement also said "casualty figures being reported by the foreign media may be grossly exaggerated." The statement did not offer any tolls for the injured or dead, nor did it explain what military officials already had told the presidency about the fighting.

Members of the Islamic extremist network Boko Haram used heavy machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades in the assault Friday, which Brig. Gen. Austin Edokpaye said began after soldiers surrounded a mosque they believed was housing Boko Haram members. Extremists earlier had killed a military officer, officials said.

The military said extremists used civilians as human shields during the fighting—implying that soldiers opened fire in neighborhoods where they knew civilians lived.

However, local residents who spoke to an Associated Press journalist who accompanied the state officials said soldiers purposefully set the fires during the attack. Violence by security forces in the northeast targeting civilians has been widely documented by journalists and human rights activists. A similar raid in Maiduguri, Borno state's capital, in October after extremists killed a military officer saw soldiers kill at least 30 civilians and set fires across a neighborhood.

Eric Guttschuss, a researcher with Human Rights Watch who studies Nigeria, said his organization continued to study what happened, though it already had deep concerns about the allegations surrounding the soldiers' conduct.

"We are investigating this extremely serious incident," he said. "In the past, Nigeria has simply denied or tried to cover up security force abuses."

Iraq vet pleads guilty to killing fellow soldiers

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. (AP)—An Army sergeant pleaded guilty Monday to killing four other soldiers and a Navy officer in 2009 at mental health clinic in Baghdad during the Iraq War, describing how he gunned down the men and saying he was in a "rage" when he began his rampage.

The plea agreement in a military court at Joint Base Lewis-McChord means Sgt. John Russell will avoid the death sentence. His maximum sentence would be a life term. He testified Monday to persuade Army judge Col. David Conn to accept the agreement. Conn agreed.

Russell—who is from Sherman, Texas—went on a shooting spree at the Camp Liberty Combat Stress Center near Baghdad in May 2009. It was one of the worst instances of soldier-on-soldier violence in the Iraq war.

In court, Russell said he was in a "rage" when he opened fire.

"I wanted the pain to stop," he testified in court at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, talking in a husky voice. He read a written statement detailing his memories of the killings.

Russell was nearing the end of his third tour when his behavior changed, members of his unit testified in 2009. They said he became more distant in the days before the May 11, 2009, attack and that he seemed paranoid that his unit was trying to end his career.

On May 8, Russell sought help at a combat stress clinic at Camp Stryker, where his unit was located. On May 10, Russell was referred to the Camp Liberty clinic, where he received counseling and prescription medication.

The following day witnesses saw Russell crying and talking about hurting himself. He went back to the Camp Liberty clinic, where a doctor told him he needed to get help or he would hurt himself. Russell tried to surrender to military police to lock him up so he wouldn't hurt himself or others, witnesses said.

Military prosecutors say Russell left the clinic and later returned with a rifle he took from his unit headquarters and began firing.

Russell said he wanted to hurt a doctor who he thought had earlier encouraged him to commit suicide. He didn't find that doctor, but still carried out the shooting.

Killed in the shooting were Navy Cmdr. Charles Springle, 52, of Wilmington, N.C., and four Army service members: Pfc. Michael Edward Yates Jr., 19, of Federalsburg, Md.; Dr. Matthew Houseal, of Amarillo, Texas; Sgt. Christian E. Bueno-Galdos, 25, of Paterson, N.J.; and Spc. Jacob D. Barton, 20, of Lenox, Mo.

Syrian regime shoring up hold on capital, coast

BEIRUT (AP)—After watching much of Syria's territory slip into rebel hands, President Bashar Assad's regime is focusing on the basics: shoring up its hold on Damascus and the strip of land connecting the capital with the Mediterranean coast.

In the past week, government troops have overrun villages near the Lebanese border and suburbs of Damascus, including two districts west of the capital where activists say regime forces killed more than 100 people. The advances have improved the regime's footing in strategic areas that are seen as crucial to its survival.

In many ways, Assad's government has little choice at this point in the civil war, analysts say. Rebels have captured much of northern and eastern Syria, seizing control of military bases, hydroelectric dams, border crossings and even a provincial capital. Those areas are home to most of the country's oil fields, and the losses have deprived the regime of badly needed cash and fuel for its war machine.

But those provinces—Raqqa, Hassakeh and Deir el-Zoura—are located hundreds of miles (kilometers) from the capital. Rebel advances there pose no direct threat to the regime's hold on Damascus—the ultimate prize in the civil war—and any effort to claw back the lost territory would demand manpower and military hardware, neither of which the regime is inclined to invest at the moment.

Instead, it has used its remaining airbases and military outposts in those areas to shell and bomb the territory it has lost in an attempt to forestall the opposition from establishing an interim administration in the rebel-held regions.

"What's important for the regime is not to leave any buffer zone, or any security zone for the rebels," said Hisham Jaber, a retired Lebanese army general who heads the Middle East Center for Studies and Political Research in Beirut.

While keeping the rebels off-balance in the lands it has lost, the regime at the same time has dedicated its resources to Damascus and securing what it widely believed to be Assad's Plan B—a retreat to the Mediterranean coastal region that is the heartland of his Alawite minority, which views its own survival as being tightly intertwined with that of the regime.

Key to that strategy is control of the corridor running from Damascus to the city of Homs and from there to the coast.

Fighting has flared in the Homs region in recent weeks as the government has pressed its campaign to stamp out rebel-held pockets in the area.

Much of the heaviest fighting has raged near the Lebanese border around the town of Qusair, southeast of Homs, where activists said government troops backed by gunmen linked to Lebanon's Lebanese Shiite militant Hezbollah group captured the villages of Radwineyeh and Tel al-Nabi Mando.

WORLD BRIEFS

Vatican official: Romero saint effort 'unblocked'

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican official spearheading the case to make slain Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador a saint said Tuesday the process is moving forward under Pope Francis, the first Latin American pontiff, after years of delay under previous popes. Separately Tuesday, an Italian religious affairs magazine reported that a panel of Vatican-appointed doctors had moved Pope John Paul II a step closer to possible sainthood by signing off on a second miracle attributed to his intercession. Pope Francis has already shown that he is keen to follow in the footsteps of his predecessors by approving candidates for possible sainthood: In his first such decision March 28, Francis cleared dozens of martyrs from the Spanish civil war to be beatified, the key milestone toward being canonized.

Nicaragua nabs US most-wanted child porn suspect

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP)—Police in Nicaragua have detained a former U.S. school teacher who was on the FBI's 10 most-wanted fugitives as a suspect in a child pornography investigation, authorities confirmed Monday. Eric Justin Toth was detained Saturday in Esteli, a city near Nicaragua's border with Honduras, and will be immediately deported to the United States, said National Police chief Aminta Granera. "Toth will be deported immediately because he was in our country illegally," Granera said at a news conference in Managua, the capital.

Campus Life

GCA students win five NJFL gold medals

Grace Christian Academy students won a total of five gold medals in the 2013 National Junior Forensic League regional competition held on April 12-13, 2013, at Mount Carmel School. Over 70 junior high school students from 10 private and public schools competed for two days for the chance to represent the Northern Marianas at the national competition.

Four out of the 13-member CNMI team are from Grace Christian Academy. They will advance to the national competition on June 18-21, 2013, in Birmingham, Alabama.

Yujin Lee, an 8th grader, won two gold medals in Dramatic Interpretation and Poetry Reading. A veteran, she has been competing in the nationals since 6th grade and this is her third and last time to compete in the NJFL national competition. She will represent the CNMI in Dramatic Interpretation.

Minna Ito also won two gold medals in Impromptu Speech and Prose Reading, but she prefers to represent the islands in Original Oratory where she won second place. When a student wins more than one gold medal, that student will compete for the category of his or her first choice according to the letter of intent that they submitted. The silver or bronze medalist fills in the slot in the other category. As an 8th grader, this is also the third and last time for Ito to compete in NJFL national competition.

Robert Marmito, also an 8th grader, won second place in Duo Interpretation with his partner, Cyril Salcedo. He also won third place in Poetry Reading, for which he will be the CNMI representative for the same category in the national competition.

Dianne Doris Arnold, a 7th grader, will be the contender for Story Telling. This is the first time for Arnold to compete at the nationals.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy students won a total of five gold medals in the 2013 National Junior Forensic League regional competition held on April 12-13, 2013, at Mount Carmel School.

GCA NJFL coach and coordinator Ami Joy Danganan said she admires the students' hard work and dedication, especially during the regional competition where they had to compete in a lot of rounds.

"I've coached for seven years now, and it's such a privilege to see these students excel and use their God-given talents. It also helps that they enjoy what they are doing," Danganan said.

Organized by the National Forensic Board and supported by the CNMI Public school system, NJFL competitions encourage public and private school students to participate in and become proficient in the forensic arts: reading, debate, public speaking, and interpretations.

Below is the list of GCA NJFL regional competition individual awards and the recipients. Congratulations to all of the winners!

NATIONAL JUNIOR FORENSIC LEAGUE 6TH-8TH GRADE

Dramatic Interpretation
Yujin Lee, 1st Place
Minna Ito, 2nd Place

Poetry Reading
Yujin Lee, 1st Place
Robert Marmito, 3rd Place

Prose Reading
Minna Ito, 1st Place

Impromptu Speech
Minna Ito, 1st Place
Dianne Arnold, 4th Place

Story Telling
Dianne Arnold, 1st Place

Duo Interpretation
Cyril Salcedo, 2nd Place
Robert Marmito, 2nd Place
Francis Joseph Dalusung, 4th Place
Alyssa Jade Nunez, 4th Place

Original Oratory
Minna Ito, 2nd Place

NJFL Coach/Coordinator: Ami Joy Danganan

3 Thespians gold medals for GCA students

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy students that took part in this school year's Thespians regional competition have their picture inside the school campus.

Two Grace Christian Academy students won three gold medals in this school year's Thespians regional competition. In Thespians, the top award winners will have the opportunity to compete at the International Thespian Festival on June 24-29, 2013, in Lincoln, Nebraska. Two GCA eight graders, Cyril Salcedo and Robert Marmito, won gold medals in Duet Acting. They will join the CNMI team to represent the islands for the same category. Robert Marmito also won another gold medal in Monologue.

Harold Easton, chapter director for the Thespian Society in the Western Pacific Islands, said the 12 individual event and the MHS choir group—all first place winners in the contest categories—will comprise the CNMI Team at the thespian society festival.

GCA Thespians coach and coordinator Ami Joy Danganan said, "I enjoy working with such talented students, both in singing and acting. Mrs. Galilee Neal, our K5 teacher who is very good in music, also helps me prepare the students for competitions."

Organized by the National Forensic League board, Thespians finalists from 11 private and public schools vied for the prestigious awards in theatre arts during the whole day competition held on March 6, 2013, at Oleai Elementary School.

Below is the list of GCA Thespians awards and the recipients. Congratulations to all of the winners!

JUNIOR THESPIANS 6TH-8TH GRADE Regional winners

Duet Acting
Cyril Salcedo, 1st Place
Robert Marmito, 1st Place
Dianne Arnold, 3rd Place
Peggy Pixley, 3rd Place

Monologue
Robert Marmito, 1st Place
Cyril Salcedo, 3rd Place

Solo Musical Theatre
Dianne Arnold, 2nd Place
Francis Joseph Dalusung, 4th Place
Rosie Castro, 5th Place

SENIOR THESPIANS (9TH-12TH GRADE) Regional Winner

Solo Musical Theatre
Bethany Garfil, 4th Place

JUNIOR THESPIANS (6TH-8TH GRADE) Over All Winners

Duet Acting
Cyril Salcedo, 1st Place
Robert Marmito, 1st Place
Dianne Arnold, 2nd Place
Peggy Pixley, 2nd Place

Monologue
Robert Marmito, 1st Place
Cyril Salcedo, 4th Place

Solo Musical Theater
Dianne Arnold, 2nd Place

SENIOR THESPIANS 9TH-12TH GRADE Overall Winners

Monologue
Jimaela Ham, 3rd Place

Solo Musical Theatre
Bethany Garfil, 4th Place

Duet Acting
Allexa Go, 4th Place
Rebekah Kim, 4th Place

Scenic Design
Angela Mamaril, 3rd Place

Marketing
Angela Mamaril, 2nd Place

Junior Thespians Singing Coach: Galilee Neal

Thespians Coach/Coordinator: Ami Joy Danganan

GMS students win honors at regional Math Court, NJFL

Green Meadow School PTSA and STUCO join the school management in congratulating all their contestants and winners at the recent regional competition of the Math Court and the National Junior Forensic League competitions. The NJFL was held at Mount Carmel School on April 12-13, 2013, while the Math Court was held on April 13, 2013, at Oleai Elementary School. Thanks and congratulations too to all the GMS coaches and to all the parents for your support.

REGIONAL MATH COURT, K2 DIVISION:

1st Place: Chealzka Navarro
2nd Place: Areeza Anda
3rd Place: Jasmyne Tolentino and Jian Carlo Sales

NJFL Regionals:
Angelo Talens: Bronze, DUO
Joseph Yanto: Bronze, DUO
En Ming Cacdac: Finalist, Original Oratory

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School president Mila Merjilla, far right, joins the proud coaches and winning GMS students at the recent regional competitions of Math Court and National Junior Forensic League.

ESFDB attends Youth For Youth Conference

The 23rd Annual Youth-for-Youth Conference, kicked off on April 12, where close to 300 middle through high school students learned to be catalysts for change in issues including underage drinking, suicide prevention, substance abuse prevention, bullying, and online safety.

This year, the youth-oriented and youth-led community group chose to go "Back 2 Basics" in addressing the issues they face today. This is also the foundation on which it was built 25 years ago, the idea that the youth can use their positive and creative energies and inspirations to promote change and influence among their peers.

Eskuelan San Francisco De Borja of Rota school administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig said it was important to encourage her Rota Catholic school students to participate in the annual event.

"I believe that Rota's youth are leaders of today and tomorrow, and have much to contribute toward making positive changes in their families, schools and village communities," said Atalig.

ESFDB Youth For Youth participants were Tyra Reese Calvo, Joshua Puerto, Loreville Clitar, Angelica Lucero, Metka Mendiola, and Jonelle Toskas.

The ESFDB youth delegation was accompanied by Cheryl M. Reyes, Carmen H. Atalig, and Edward Maratita Jr.

Since 1988, Youth for Youth Live! Guam has been educating teens from all around the Northern Marianas on how to live clean and wholesome lives.

The conference was designed by youth for youth and facilitated by over 60 members of the YFYLG organization who completed weekly planning meetings, a two-part facilitator training, and team building workshop.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ESFDB Youth For Youth members pose for a souvenir photo after the completion of the three-day conference.

"Not only are the youth members prepared to teach their peers about their chosen prevention topics during the conference [but] they are also given the opportunity to meet, create new friendships and build cohesive and supportive relationships with their peers who are attending the conference," said Maratita, who is also ESFDB board president and Pacific Regional Training Institute Prevention and Awareness director.

"YFYLG uses the strategy of youth empowerment wherein the youth themselves lead the workshops and discussion groups throughout the three-day conference. Our youths should be actively involved in prevention program development, implementation and evaluation. Rota's youth possesses relevant knowledge and cultural experiences, strength and character, and the ability to effectively lead and influence their peers to take personal responsibility for living their lives, healthy and drug-free," he added.

It is the Pacific Regional Training Institutes Prevention and Awareness group's belief that prevention programs are based on the influence of positive peer support, youth helping youth by helping to strengthen life skills to choose a drug-free lifestyle. "It is this very principle that makes the annual conference a success," added Maratita.

Seventh grade student Angelica Lucero said, "Sometimes, all we have to do is stick with the simple things in life to be happy, whether it's family, friends, hobbies, or even music! We don't have to resort to drugs or alcohol to have a good time or feel better."

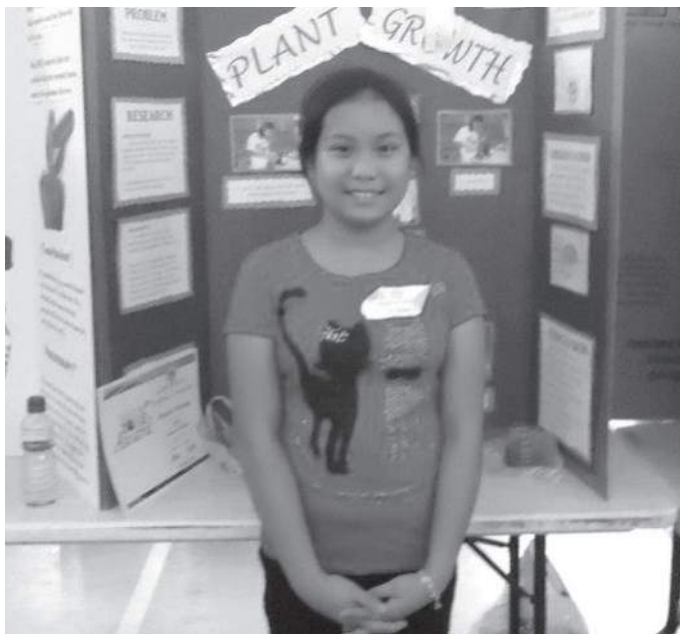
"Everyone deserves to live a positive and healthy life," Jonelle Toskas added. "It is the group's goal for the youth participants to realize that they can make this choice for themselves."

The conference was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Tumon, Guam.

The administration, faculty, and students would like to express their appreciation to Holiday Hotel-Guam/ Rota Resort & Country Club, Mayor Melchor and Estrella Mendiola, Dr. James and Jocelyn Toskas, Cheryl M. Reyes, Dave Jr. and Glenda Santos, TJ H. Atalig, Estel Diaz, Cora Lutero, and parents. ***(Edward Maratita Jr.)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ESFDB first grade student SonJoe Manuel receives his first place medal in the Earth and Science Category for the kindergarten to first grade cluster.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ESFDB fifth grade student Marjorie Banaag poses with her display that placed third in the Life Science Category for the fourth to fifth grade cluster.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ESFDB seventh grade student Angelica Lucero receives her first place medal in the Technology and Electronic Category for the sixth to eighth grade cluster.

ESFDB excels in CNMI Wide STEM Fair

The Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja of Rota put together a delegation that won big at the CNMI Wide STEM Fair held at Marianas High School Gymnasium on Saipan last month.

During the event on March 16, the gymnasium was bustling with energy, a myriad of displays and judges were looking, talking, and asking questions of the young scientists.

The CNMI Wide STEM Fair displayed all elementary, middle, and high school student projects. Winners of the school level science fair get to present their science projects at the CNMI Wide Level.

The seven-member delegation for ESFBD did well, taking two first place and one third place finish. In the end, however, the most rewarding thing was getting the kids involved in science.

First grade student SonJoe Manuel placed first in the category of Earth and Science while seventh grade student Angelica Lucero placed first in the Technology and Electronic category. Fifth grade student Marjorie Banaag placed third in Life Science category.

"It was my first time in competing in this science competition and I am very happy that I won first place. My parents are proud of me," said Manuel.

Banaag stated: "Even though I place third, I am still proud because like SonJoe, this is my first competition. This is a push for me to try harder next year."

In addition, Lucero was selected to represent the CNMI in the upcoming Science Fair to be held in Guam sometime in May.

One by one, students discussed their science projects with the judges. Judges listened carefully as Lucero explained her experiment on Fruit and Vegetables Battery Power. This experiment earned her the honor of representing the CNMI in the upcoming science fair in Guam. She bested other sixth to eighth graders.

"It is quite an achievement," said Lucero. "First, winning at my school level, then CNMI Wide, and then overall to represent the CNMI in Guam, I am impressed and I am proud of myself."

When she first organized the school's STEM Fair, ESFDB administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig just wanted the students to be exposed to science.

"This is great because the outcome was a success and the students are learning by actually participating at a level where it is competitive," Atalig said. "It's much more beneficial for students to be able to learn through hands-on projects such as science."

"We are proud of our students' accomplishment. We want our students to continue to be involved in science activities so it can help them understand the concepts better," ESFDB elementary science teacher Florinda Chavez said. "It's more fun and it makes it more real for them. And you can see they're having a good time."

Mary Rose Lucero, the science teacher who helps organize the ESFDB STEM Fair, praised all the students for their hard work and success during the CNMI-wide competition. "This is our first year we had it at school level and we have amazing God-given talented students," she said. "We need to engage our students in the world of science for next year's fair. We have a lot of potential young scientist in our Luta committee."

ESFDB board president Edward Maratita Jr. stated: "I commend the parents' involvement in the school's science fair. Their involvement showed their support toward their children's education. I hope they continue to show the support and enhance their children's learning at ESFDB."

This marks the second year the ESFDB participated in the CNMI Wide STEM fair.

The administration, faculty, staff, and students would like to extend their appreciation to Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Fr. Charlie Borja, PSS associate commissioner Jackie Quitugua, CNMI Wide STEM Fair Committee's Tita Hocog, and parents. ***(Edward Maratita Jr.)***

Life & Style

Streisand feted by Clinton, Minnelli and friends

AP
Honoree Barbra Streisand attends the Film Society of Lincoln Center's 40th Annual Chaplin Award Gala on Monday, April 22, 2013, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—"Ever since I can remember," Barbra Streisand told a crowd at Lincoln Center Monday night, "people have been calling me bossy and opinionated."

She continued: "Maybe that's because I am. Three cheers for bossy women!" The crowd roared.

Of course, the crowd—which included the singer's friends, Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton, was roaring at pretty much anything connected to her all evening, as the legend of song and screen was honored for her film career with the 40th annual Chaplin Award from the Film Society of Lincoln Center.

The Streisand fans especially loved the film highlights, which covered everything from "Funny Girl" and "The Way We Were" to "The Owl and the Pussycat," "What's Up, Doc?" and "Meet the Fockers."

And then there was "Yentl"—the first Hollywood movie to be directed, produced, written and starred in by a woman, as the crowd was reminded.

Streisand spoke of how hard it was to get funding to make the film. Producers, it seemed, weren't as passionate as she was about the tale of a Jewish girl in Eastern Europe who so longed to study the Talmud that she disguised herself as a boy. It was only when Streisand agreed to turn the movie into a musical—and most importantly, sing in it herself—that she was able to go ahead with the project.

"It's funny how things always come back to music," she said. "How it saves me."

Streisand, who turns 71 this week, is one of the few entertainers to have won Oscar, Emmy, Grammy and Tony awards. Although she is perhaps most loved for her beautiful singing voice, she told the audience that as a young child, what she wanted most was to be an actress. But nobody really wanted "a 15-year-old Medea," she noted. "Thank God I was given a good voice," she said, explaining how her singing opened the doors to acting.

Not that acting was so easy in the early going. At age 16, she recalled, she had to show in a scene that she was in love with a man. But she was not attracted to the actor, she said, so she placed a piece of chocolate cake nearby—so she could stare at that longingly, instead.

For the awards gala, which raised $2 million for the film society—twice the previous high amount for the annual event—Streisand was serenaded by Wynton Marsalis on trumpet, by Liza Minnelli, and by Tony Bennett, who closed the show with the song, "Smile," fittingly a Charlie Chaplin song. Also appearing onstage to praise their friend and colleague were Michael Douglas, Catherine Deneuve (last year's honoree), Amy Irving, Blythe Danner, George Segal, Ben Stiller, Pierce Brosnan and Kris Kristofferson.

In video clips, Robert Redford—her "The Way We Were" co-star—spoke of how he'd been warned before making the movie that Streisand was "a pain," but discovered that she was "totally engaging to act with, beautiful, thorough and skilled." And Omar Sharif, who played Nick Arnstein in "Funny Girl," gave perhaps the most moving video tribute, talking about how incredible it was that he, an Egyptian actor, played a New York Jew in the 1968 film, and how she had become such a good friend. "We used to go to the cinema together," Sharif said. "We paid for our tickets and sat there and watched."

It was Bill Clinton, though, who got the last word—before Streisand, that is—praising the singer as driven, in the best way.

"Every great person is driven," the former president said. "But if that person has massive talent, big brains and a bigger heart, you want to go along for the ride."

Jury is now seated in Michael Jackson wrongful death case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A jury of six men and six women was accepted by both sides on Monday for the trial of a wrongful death lawsuit filed by the mother of Michael Jackson against AEG concert promoters.

Lawyers immediately began questioning prospects to sit as alternate jurors.

The jury was seated a week after a pool of more than 100 candidates was assembled. Many prospects were eliminated because they said serving on a three-month trial would be a hardship.

Others were excused for cause when they said they had a bias against Jackson or disapproved of big-figure lawsuits. Others were rejected because they had business ties to AEG or the Jackson family.

Jackson's mother, Katherine Jackson, filed the case on behalf of herself and her son's three children. Their attorneys have pegged the potential damages at $40 billion, but jurors will have to determine any amount the family might receive.

The lawsuit claims AEG, the company that promoted the ill-fated "This is It" concert, hired Dr. Conrad Murray as Jackson's physician without checking his credentials. Murray was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the death of the superstar from an overdose of the anesthetic propofol.

Coincidentally, his lawyer filed an appeal on Monday of his criminal conviction.

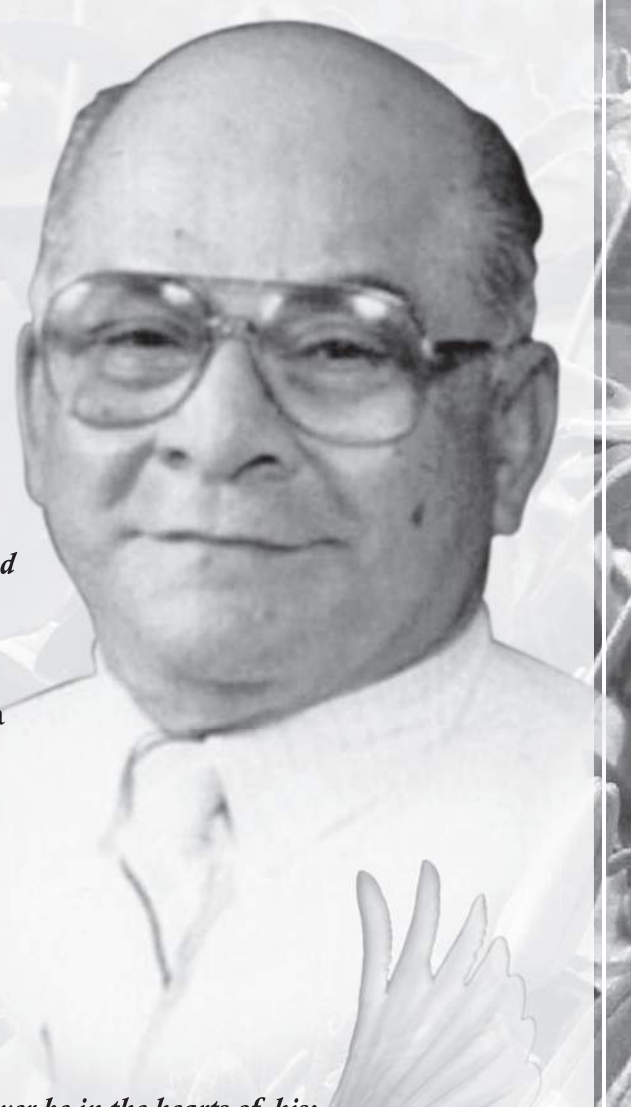
The jury was selected ahead of time estimates. Lawyers were aided by a long questionnaire filled out by jury prospects that sought their views on Jackson and his famous family along with his life and death, and their feelings about multimillion dollar jury verdicts.

The civil case will focus on the pop singer's possible role in his own demise. Witnesses will also testify about his troubled finances and whether AEG wielded too much influence over a cash-strapped Murray by offering him $150,000 a month for his job as Jackson's doctor during the concert tour.

Neither AEG nor Jackson had signed Murray's contract before the singer died.

TO ETERNAL LIFE

JESUS DIAZ SABLAN



(Lovingly known as "Tan Chu," "Tan Chu Kilili" or "Chuming")
born on December 24, 1929, went peacefully to our Lord on April 18, 2013 at the age of 83.

Entering the gates of heaven, Tan Chu will be greeted and reunited with his:

Parents: Gregorio San Nicolas & Joaquina Torres Diaz Sablan
Parents-in-Law: Joaquin Taimanao Camacho & Ana Sablan Reyes Camacho
Brothers, Sisters and In-laws:
Matilde Sablan & Marcus G. Untalan;
Rita Sablan & Luis C. Tenorio;
Rosalia Sablan & Juan SN. Pangelinan;
Vicente D. & Felicidad H. Sablan;
Anunciacion Sablan & Jesus M. Palacios;
Froilan Reyes Camacho;
Constancia Reyes Camacho.
Son-in-Law: Vicente C. Deleon Guerrero

Precious memories and lasting love for Tan Chu will forever be in the hearts of his:

Wife: Victorina Reyes Camacho Sablan
Children: Frances S./Edward Arriola and children; **Jessica S. Deleon Guerrero** and children; **Gregorio Kilili Camacho**/Andrea Sablan and children; **Ana C. Sablan** and children; **Florence C. Sablan** and children; **Lucy C. Sablan**; **Bernadette C. Sablan** and children
Caretaker: Emmanuel Balajadia

Tan Chu is also loved and cherished by 18 grandchildren; 19 great grandchildren; 2 great-great grandchildren; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, godchildren, and friends.

Daily masses of intention are offered at 6:00 a.m. and rosary is prayed at 7:00 p.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Tan Chu will be with us for the last time on Saturday, April 27, 2013. Visitation and last respects are welcomed beginning at 8:00 a.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed immediately with interment at Mount Carmel Cemetery where he will be laid to rest.

Your thoughts and most especially your prayers are sincerely appreciated.

VICTORINA REYES CAMACHO SABLAN
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Reese Witherspoon's clean image should fully recover

AP

Actress Reese Witherspoon attends the premiere of "Mud" hosted by The Cinema Society with FIJI Water & Levi's at the Museum of Modern Art on Sunday April 21, 2013 in New York.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Reese Witherspoon's professional image is so squeaky clean that she got laughs on a late-night show earlier this year for pretending to buy bottles of cognac and tequila.

Her recent arrest and admission that she "clearly had one drink too many" could be more damaging to her brand than it might be for someone with a less-wholesome image, experts say, but because she apologized quickly and sincerely, her career is likely to fare just fine.

"Reese Witherspoon has become successful by positioning herself as America's sweetheart—a likable, friendly, non-threatening star—and this fundamentally disrupts that image," said branding expert Dorie Clark, author of "Reinventing You." ''It's far worse for Reese Witherspoon to be arrested (image-wise) than it would be for Lindsay Lohan. ... I think (Witherspoon) understands the severity of the situation and that's why she issued the apology so quickly."

The 37-year-old Oscar winner was arrested in Atlanta after a state trooper said she wouldn't stay in the car while her husband, Hollywood agent Jim Toth, was arrested and accused of driving under the influence of alcohol.

"Do you know my name?" Witherspoon is quoted as saying in the trooper's report of the early Friday incident. She also said: "You're about to find out who I am" and "You're about to be on national news," according to Trooper First Class J. Pyland.

Witherspoon apologized shortly after news of the arrests broke Sunday and attended a New York screening of her new film, "Mud," that night as scheduled.

"I clearly had one drink too many and I am deeply embarrassed about the things I said," she said in a statement. "It was definitely a scary situation and I was frightened for my husband, but that is no excuse. I was disrespectful to the officer who was just doing his job. The words I used that night definitely do not reflect who I am. I have nothing but respect for the police and I'm very sorry for my behavior."

Her publicist, Meredith O'Sullivan Wasson, declined comment Monday.

Longtime Hollywood publicist Michael Levine said Witherspoon's timely apology helps mitigate any lasting damage to her image, saying she, "quickly removed the poison from her system."

Veteran publicist and vice chairman of Reputation.com Howard Bragman agreed.

"This is a speed bump, not a sinkhole," he said. "She made a mistake, she apologized. She didn't even have the DUI; it was her husband. Is it embarrassing? Yeah, a little bit. But it's not a game changer in terms of her career."

Pat Summitt's life chronicled in film 'Pat XO'

NEW YORK (AP)—Pat Summitt smiled, laughed and shook her head at times.

The Hall of Fame coach, who has early onset dementia, was part of the audience watching a screening of a documentary about her career. "Pat XO."

"It's a wonderful film and they did a great job with it," Summitt told The Associated Press. "It was really incredible to see all those people share their stories."

The show is part of ESPN Films' Nine for IX documentary series. It debuted at the Tribeca Film Festival on Sunday and will air July 9.

Summitt's son, Tyler, was the lead storyteller, spending time with his mother on a couch in their home going through a scrapbook of her life. The film starts from Summitt's earliest days and goes through her retirement last April.

The 60-year-old former Tennessee coach acknowledged in her recently released book that at times she may not remember all the milestones of her career. This project will provide a reminder.

To tell Summitt's story, the filmmakers sent cameras to those who knew her best and had them record testimonials.

Former players Tamika Catchings, Chamique Holdsclaw, Michelle Marciniak and Candace Parker all told stories of their mentor. Longtime friends and rival coaches, including Connecticut's Geno Auriemma, also talk about Summitt.

"It was an honor to be a part of this film," Catchings wrote in an email. "For all that Pat has done and continues to do, it's a blessing to give back to her and celebrate the great things she has done on and off the court."

Catchings called the filming technique—using a camera to self-record her thoughts—"kind of a weird but neat concept."

"It's not hard to talk about someone who has helped mold me into the woman I am today," she said.

Marciniak and her parents recalled the famous story of a pregnant Summitt breaking water as she was paying a recruiting visit to their home. Summitt left the recruiting trip early and wouldn't let the plane land anywhere but Tennessee.

In one the most poignant moments, Summitt was talking to Tyler about having to step down from coaching last year. She called it the right thing to do.

As the two were discussing it, Summitt started to tear up—one of the rare times she has shown emotion about her decision. Her two dogs, Sally Sue and Sadie, sensing their owner was saddened, came over to the couch to console her. Summitt wound up providing the consolation, petting the labs and letting them up on the couch.

3 Doors Down cancels 4 shows following fatal crash

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The rock band 3 Doors Down has called off four U.S. appearances following the arrest of the group's bassist, who was accused of driving intoxicated and causing a fatal interstate crash in a Nashville suburb.

The band announced Monday that out of respect for the victim, 47-year-old Paul Howard Shoulders Jr., it was canceling four appearances in the U.S. originally set for April and May.

The cancellations include shows scheduled in Bossier City, La., Nashville, and at two music festivals, Rockville in Jacksonville, Fla., and Carolina Rebellion in Charlotte. The tour will resume May 31 in Moscow and return to the U.S. in July.

Bassist Robert Todd Harrell remained jailed Monday in lieu of $100,000 bail. He awaits a scheduled court appearance Thursday, but court records do not indicate that he had retained a lawyer. He is facing multiple charges, including vehicular homicide by intoxication, violation of the implied consent law, contraband, and two counts of possession of a controlled substance.

Police said the 41-year-old musician was driving under the influence and speeding Friday night on an interstate in a when his car clipped a pickup truck. The pickup lost control, smashed into a guardrail and went down an embankment and overturned, the police statement added. The pickup driver, who wasn't wearing a seatbelt, was ejected.

Shoulders, the other driver, was pronounced dead at a hospital, police said.

The band's publicist said in a statement that 3 Doors Down cancelled the four upcoming dates out of respect for Shoulders and his family. The statement didn't give specifics of the dates being canceled.

A neighbor of the victim's family described Shoulders as a good man and a mechanic who helped teach young men in his Nashville neighborhood how to work on cars, adding he tried to steer them from the streets.

"He was always helping these boys in the neighborhood with their cars and different things," Edwin Fulcher said. "He was trying to keep them off drugs, keep them busy."

"It really hurt me to think that such a nice fellow like him got killed because he was such an attribute to the community," Fulcher added.

Police said Harrell showed signs of being impaired during field sobriety tests after the crash. A statement issued by Nashville police said that Harrell acknowledged drinking hard cider and taking the prescription drugs Lortab and Xanax.

With CD, Fall Out Boy wants to save rock 'n' roll

AP

This April 12, 2013 photo shows members of the band Fall Out Boy, from left, Patrick Stump, Pete Wentz, Andy Hurley and Joe Trohman in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—When Fall Out Boy learned that Elton John was a fan of their music, they jokingly thought he might want to record with them. As it turned out, he did.

"We were nearly done with the album," lead singer Patrick Stump said in a recent interview. "I think we were mixing at that point, but he said 'yes' and we were like, 'Oh, wow. OK, yes.'"

The Chicago-based rockers halted the mixing process of their fifth album—their first in five years—and Stump flew to Atlanta to record with the veteran rocker.

John is featured on the title track of "Save Rock and Roll," released last week. Band members say the title of the album is "tongue-in-cheek," but they're also serious about their choice of words.

"It hits on ... `Why are we the only ones that are saying this?'" said frontman and bassist Pete Wentz. "But at the same time, it's kind of a joke, but if it means something to you, then it's not really that much of a joke."

Stump said John's inclusion on the title track really drives home their point.

"He actually spoke up for the album's title. He came in and was like, `Love the album title. Love where this is going. This is great,'" Stump said. "And that was really special for us to have him support us like that."

Just before the John-featured tune plays on the 11-track set, there's the song "Rat a Tat," featuring Courtney Love.

"We've had a couple different run-ins just over the years, you know, just ones where you're like, `I had 17 drinks last night and I ran into Courtney Love,'" Wentz recalled with a laugh.

"It's important for girls to understand that they don't need to just be coat hangers for boys, it's not all about being groupies," he said. "So we thought it would be important to have an iconic female voice on the album, and Courtney screams rock `n' roll."

Fall Out Boy released their debut album in 2003. They are known for their alternative punk rock sound and Top 10 pop hits including "This Ain't a Scene, It's an Arms Race," "Dance, Dance" and "Sugar, We're Goin Down."

The album's first single, "My Songs Know What You Did in the Dark (Light Em Up)," is a Top 40 hit that was remixed by 2 Chainz, who stars in the song's music video.

"We're big, big 2 Chainz fans," Wentz said of the ubiquitous rapper. Added guitarist Joe Trohman: "He works hard."

Khloe Kardashian out on 'X Factor'

NEW YORK (AP)—Khloe Kardashian is left out following the latest game of musical chairs on "The X Factor."

Kardashian

Fox said Monday that while Mario Lopez is returning this fall as host of Simon Cowell's music competition series, Kardashian will not be joining him.

Cowell's series, which has never quite met ratings expectations, is in the midst of turnover with its judging panel, too. Cowell and Demi Lovato will be returning, but Britney Spears and record producer Antonio "L.A." Reid left and have not been replaced yet.

The show starts its third season in the fall.

Kim Kardashian says she's ready for childbirth

NEW YORK (AP)—Kim Kardashian says she's gotten more used to pregnancy, is more comfortable in her skin and is no longer feeling the aches and pains of expectant motherhood.

"Now I think I'm past all the awkward phases and stages, and once you feel the baby kick it's a whole new experience," Kardashian said Monday while attending the E! Network Upfront in New York. "I finally really embrace it. I love it now, but it took a minute. It was a lot, you know, a lot of body changes and stuff."

The reality star has received a lot of scrutiny over how she's chosen to dress her baby bump. For a while she avoided maternity clothes, wearing see-through tops and leather pants. The 32-year-old also opted to still wear designer clothing but in larger sizes that maybe weren't meant for an expectant woman.

Kardashian says she's not only feeling better but is pretty calm about giving birth and isn't nervous.

"At the beginning that was what I feared the most, and now, I mean, it's inevitable," she said. "It's gonna happen. I'm really not worried or nervous."

Kardashian and her baby's father, rapper Kanye West, know the gender of their child but are keeping it a secret. She said she's careful when she goes shopping to not give anything away.

"We buy all white," she said, laughing. "Or we'll go and buy both (girls' and boys' clothing), and then no one will know."

Besides Kardashian's belly, the cast of "Keeping up with the Kardashians" is getting bigger. The upcoming eighth season will include stepdad Bruce Jenner's sons, Brandon and Brody Jenner, along with Brandon's wife, Leah Jenner.

Brandon and Brody Jenner's mom is actress Linda Thompson, who was engaged to Elvis Presley.

Kardashian said it only makes sense to feature her step-brothers on the show.

"Our parents got married when I was 10 years old so people don't see that side of our lives," she said, "but they've been in our lives for so long so it's fun to share that with everyone."

PSY's new single 'Gentleman' continues record run

NEW YORK (AP)—PSY continues to set records on YouTube.

The South Korean pop star hit another mark for viral views with his new single "Gentleman," earning 38 million views in a single day as it set a blistering pace to 200 million views.

Kevin Allocca, YouTube's trends manager, says "Gentleman" was viewed 38 million times on April 14, surpassing the single-day record of 30 million set by the "KONY 2012" short film. It also holds the day-of-debut record with 18.5 million views.

PSY's "Gangnam Style" is YouTube's most-viewed video at 1.5 billion.

"Gentleman" reached 100 million views in four days and was approaching 204 million views Monday afternoon. It's not clear if those are records, but it took "Gangnam Style" more than 50 days to reach 100 million views.

Ryan Lochte on critics: Haters are 'a given'

NEW YORK (AP)—What would Ryan Lochte do if he became the brunt of a joke? Ignore it.

The 28-year-old Olympic gold medalist-turned-reality TV star addressed the ups-and-downs of fame at the E! Network Upfront in New York on Monday.

He's experienced both in recent days.

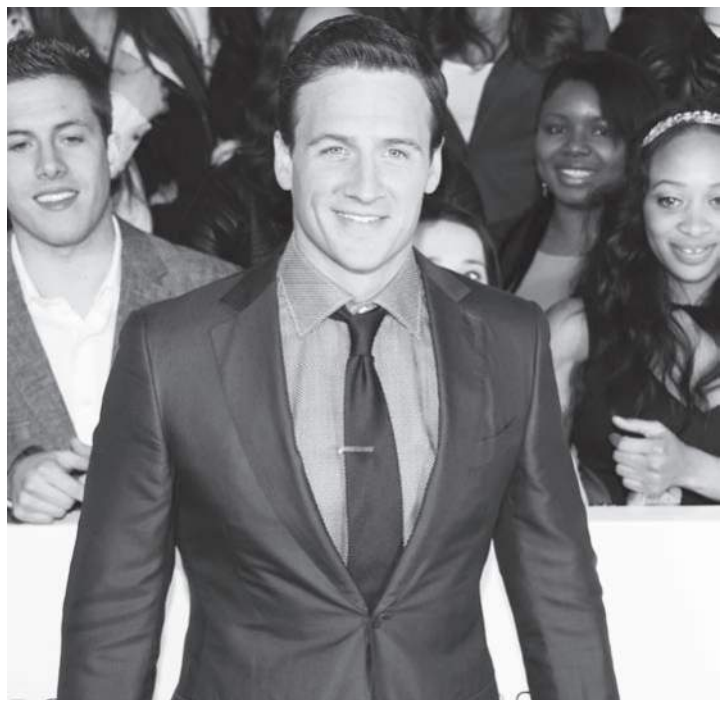
A new reality series "What Would Ryan Lochte Do" premiered Sunday on the E! cable TV channel. It debuted on the heels of an unflattering video that went viral over the weekend where he appeared in an interview via satellite with Fox affiliate WTXF in Philadelphia. The segment itself—while rather dull and maybe a little awkward— became the most entertaining when it ended. The anchors doubled over with laughter over Lochte's response to some of their questions and wondered out loud how producers would have enough material to put together a TV show about him.

On the E! carpet, Lochte said he takes any naysayers in stride.

"The more known you get in the public eye, the more haters you're gonna have and that's a given," he rationalized. "But, you know what? All the haters, all the name calling goes through one ear (and) out the other and I don't mind it. The way I look at it the more haters I have it means I'm doing something right."

He credits swimming with helping him to block out the noise of negativity.

"With swimming I've been known to cut out everything. The crowd, everything. Just focus on me and my lane and what I need to accomplish so I can do that pretty much in life too."


AP

Olympic swimmer Ryan Lochte from "What Would Ryan Lochte Do?" attends the E! Network 2013 Upfront at the Manhattan Center on Monday April 22, 2013 in New York.

Lauryn Hill tax evasion sentencing delayed

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—A federal judge postponed Lauryn Hill's tax evasion sentencing on Monday but not before scolding the eight-time Grammy-winning singer for reneging on a promise to make restitution by now.

Hill pleaded guilty last year to not paying federal taxes on $1.8 million earned from 2005 to 2007. At that time, her attorney said she would pay restitution by the time of her sentencing. It was revealed Monday in court that Hill has paid $50,000 of a total of $554,000.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Madeline Cox Arleo criticized her for relying on the promise of a recording contract to pay the tax bill.

"This is not someone who stands before the court penniless," Arleo said to Hill's attorney, Nathan Hochman. "This is a criminal matter. Actions speak louder than words, and there has been no effort here to pay these taxes."

Hill

The reclusive singer didn't speak during the proceeding and left the court without commenting. Arleo rescheduled the sentencing for May 6.

The total Hill owes is in dispute. Hochman contends it is slightly less than $1 million, counting civil penalties and interest, while the U.S. attorney's office estimates it at a little more than $1 million. Hochman accused the government of trying to pad the amount because once it surpasses $1 million, the sentencing range for Hill under federal guidelines would increase from 24 to 30 months to 30 to 36 months.

Whatever the range is, Hochman said he would seek a probationary sentence for Hill, a 37-year-old South Orange resident who has six children.

After the proceeding, Hochman said Hill was about to sign a loan against two properties that would allow her to pay the remainder of the restitution before her next court date.

"I fully expect that by May 3 Ms. Hill will be able to pay back all the restitution she has," Hochman said.

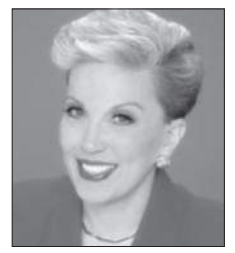
Hill has a recording contract but hasn't yet realized any revenue from it, Hochman said outside the courtroom.

Hill got her start with The Fugees and began her solo career in 1998 with the acclaimed album "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill."

At the time of her June arrest, Hill wrote in a long post on the Internet how she had rejected pop culture's "climate of hostility, false entitlement, manipulation, racial prejudice, sexism and ageism." She also wrote that she hadn't paid taxes since she withdrew from society to guarantee her family's safety but that she had always intended to rectify the situation.

Aggressive girls put teenage boy in embarrassing state

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My son is a tall, strikingly handsome teenager, although somewhat shy. Our problem is that his looks attract the wrong kind of attention from aggressive girls, and it's getting worse every year.

He and his 14-year-old sister went out to eat after school yesterday, and when they returned it was obvious my son was upset and his sister was furious. She said a group of college girls at a table next to them were teasing and taunting my son with blatantly sexual propositions. They went so far as to touch him suggestively as they got up to leave.

I'm sure they got the physical response from him they wanted; he is only 17, after all. But he was clearly angry, embarrassed and ashamed. He said he felt trapped and didn't know what to do.

The sexual harassment of young men is often laughed off with a wink and a nudge, but it isn't funny. It can be as painful and damaging to men as to women. Furthermore, my son is a minor, and I suspect the college girls were adults, if the beer on the table was any indication.

I am trying to raise my son to respect women and to be a decent man, husband and father someday, but frankly, I'm at a loss as to how to help him handle this type of sexual aggressiveness from girls. Do you or any of your readers have any suggestions?

SHOCKED MOM IN TENNESSEE

DEAR MOM: I can see why your son and daughter were upset. He was not only sexually harassed by those young women, but when they put their hands on him, he was ASSAULTED. When the teasing escalated, he and his sister should have changed tables or left the restaurant.

If your son's father is in the picture, he should discuss the incident with your son. If that's not possible, another adult male should help him understand that his arousal was normal and nothing to be ashamed of. I am sure my male readers will also want to weigh in on your letter because what happened to your son was outrageous.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I recently bought a used car for myself. It is exotic, and my wife and I really like it. She's upset with me, however, because I won't let her drive it unless I'm in the car. I bought it with the intent for us to enjoy it, but I am also concerned with keeping it in good shape.

Because my wife is unhappy, I am undecided about whether to keep the car and stick to my guns, or sell it and live life simply and unfettered. We share everything, but the car is one thing that needs careful attention. Can you give me some advice?

DOESN'T WANT IT DENTED IN
RANCHO CORDOVA, CALIF.

DEAR DOESN'T WANT IT DENTED: Let's be honest. On one hand, you say you bought the car for yourself, and on the other, you say you bought it for both of you to enjoy. You can't have it both ways, so which is it?

I think the time has come to confess to your wife that even though you said the car was for both of you, it's really your baby. Then make it up to her by buying her that special something she has always wished for.

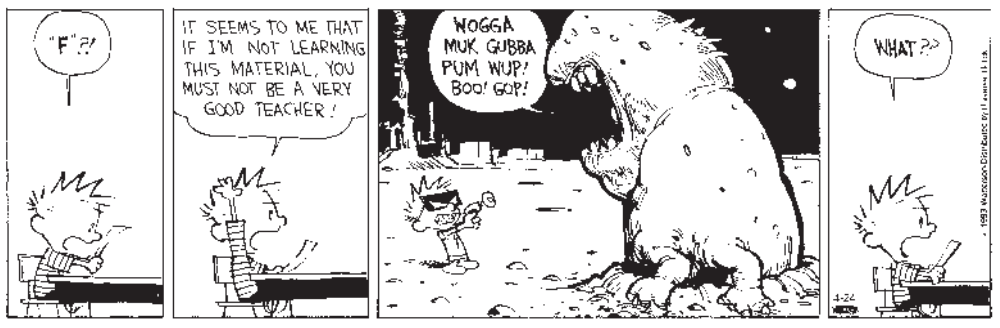
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

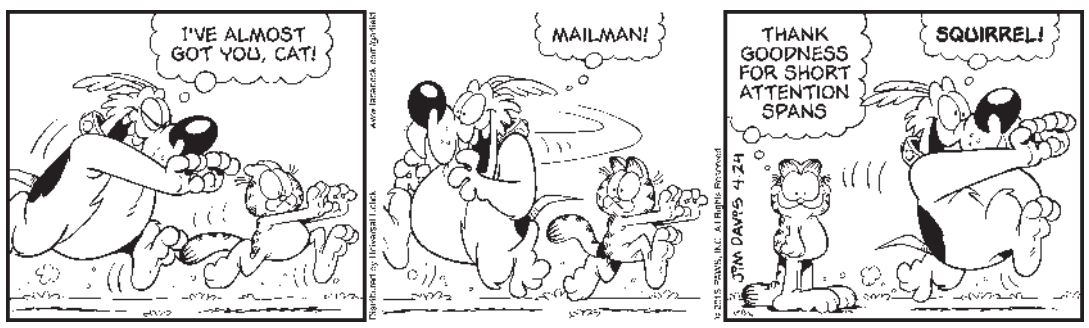
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


"F"?!
IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IF I'M NOT LEARNING THIS MATERIAL, YOU MUST NOT BE A VERY GOOD TEACHER!
NOGGA MUK GUBBA PUM WUP! BOO! GOP!
WHAT?

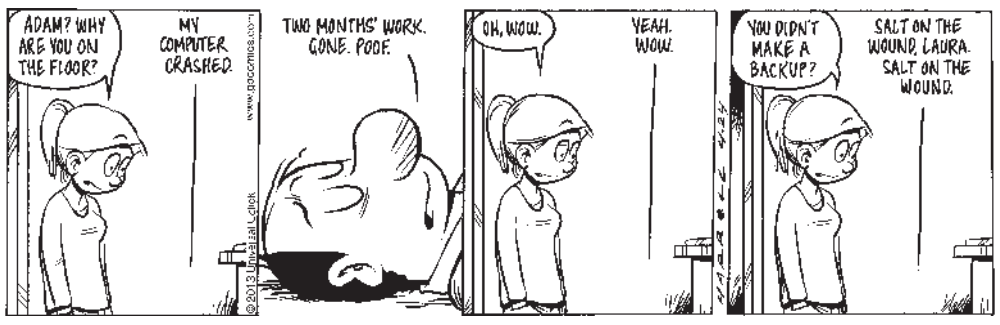
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



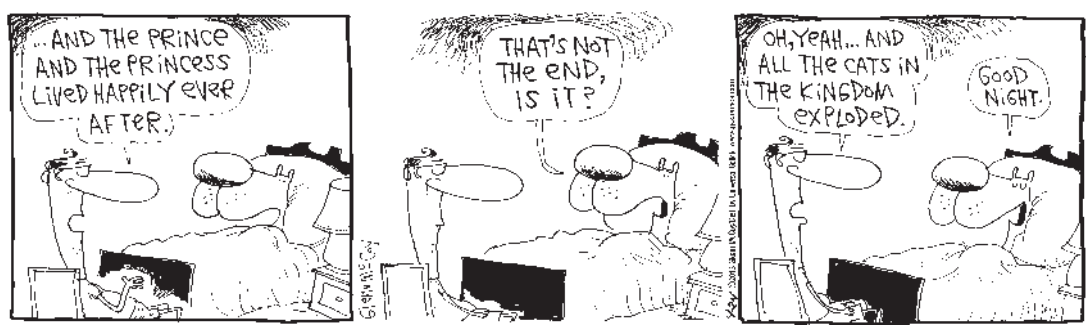
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ADAM? WHY ARE YOU ON THE FLOOR?
MY COMPUTER CRASHED.
TWO MONTHS' WORK. GONE. POOF.
OH, WOW.
YEAH. WOW.
YOU DIDN'T MAKE A BACKUP?
SALT ON THE WOUND, LAURA. SALT ON THE WOUND.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


...AND THE PRINCE AND THE PRINCESS LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
THAT'S NOT THE END, IS IT?
OH, YEAH... AND ALL THE CATS IN THE KINGDOM EXPLODED.
GOOD NIGHT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Temperate
5 Owns
8 Lovers' quarrel
12 Sandwich treat
13 Final (Abbr.)
14 Small combo
15 "Desperate Housewives" actress Eva
17 Cincinnati team
18 Ingratiate
19 Warehouse pile
21 Pigpen
22 Deck for a 10-count
23 Wife of Saturn
26 Embrace
28 Become one
31 Addict
33 Shell game item
35 "My Heart Will Go On" singer
36 Ringworm
38 Egypt's boy king
40 Toss in
41 Transmit
43 Afternoon party
45 "Jane Eyre" author
47 Do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do
51 Mongolian tent
52 Great bliss
54 Mideastern potentate
55 Fields or Butterworth
56 Villain's look
57 Fix, in a way
58 Crafty
59 Young woman

DOWN
1 Double agent
2 Press
3 Give for a time
4 Venetian magistrates
5 "Get a move on!"
6 Foreman foe
7 Pile
8 Wandered off
9 Transvaal city
10 Staffer
11 Pitch
16 Inauguration recitation
20 Ewe's mate
23 No longer stylish
24 Omega preceder
25 Brain's stimulus receptors
27 Understand
29 Deity
30 Conclude
32 Space flight conclusion
34 Job for a medical examiner
37 Pismire
39 Georgia —
42 Considers
44 Coral circle
45 Tourney situations
46 Derriere
48 Vicinity
49 Competes
50 Corn spikes
53 Web address

Solution time: 21 mins.

M	E	S	H		W	H	O		C	R	A	B
A	C	H	E		H	E	W		H	O	S	E
C	H	A	R	C	O	A	L		A	S	I	A
H	O	G		I	O	P		C	R	A	F	T
			C	O	P		M	A	Y			
O	U	G	H	T		B	O	M	B	A	R	D
P	L	E	A		Y	U	M		D	R	A	Y
S	T	E	R	N	U	M		G	I	M	M	E
			A	U	K		D	O	S			
T	R	A	C	T		O	R	E		D	U	O
R	I	O	T		C	H	A	R	M	I	N	G
A	C	N	E		B	I	G		A	M	I	R
P	E	E	R		S	O	S		P	E	T	E

Yesterday's answer 4-24

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
18						■	19	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22				■	■
23	24	25	■	26		27	■	28			29	30
31			32	■	33		34	■	35			
36				37	■	38		39	■	40		
■	■	41			42	■	43		44	■	■	■
45	46					■	47			48	49	50
51				■	52	53						
54				■	55			■	56			
57				■	58			■	59			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Katherine Webb, 24; David Boudia, 24; Kelly Clarkson, 31; Barbra Streisand, 71

Happy Birthday: Expect pressure from family and peers. Deal with any situation that arises swiftly. Control your emotions and put time and effort into fact-finding and increasing your knowledge and skills. The more diverse you are, the better you will do. Focus on your goals, not what others want you to do. Honor a commitment to someone special. Your numbers are 8, 11, 17, 24, 31, 37, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Adapting to what's going on around you is the best way to proceed. Once you get into the rhythm of the day you will encounter positive results. Reevaluate partnerships and back away from anyone who appears to be holding you back. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Refrain from making an impulsive decision based on emotional factors that can disrupt your position or earning power. Focus more on your attributes and how you can use them in order to get ahead. The power of persuasion will lead to victory. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Get involved, be a participant and reach out to bring about changes in your community that you feel are necessary. Don't let uncertainty at work stop you from doing your best. Show versatility and set a good example. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Indecisiveness will work against you. Size up your situation, consider your options and move forward without hesitation. Participating in an event or activity that brings you in contact with old colleagues or friends will enhance your day and your life. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Stay busy and avoid trouble. A short trip will bring about change. Don't let anyone bully you into something you don't agree with. Do your part by contributing knowledge, ideas and plans for the future. Make positive alterations at home. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You will be entertaining, fun to be with and a major contributor. Focus on love, romance and socializing. The more interactive you are, the better. Relationships can be enhanced with a little effort. Self-improvement projects will pay off. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Expand your interests and your friendships, but don't go over budget. Protect your assets and put more into your long-term investment. Strive to stabilize any contracts, settlements or medical issues you face. Don't let emotions separate you from the people you love. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Recognize a problem and do something about it before someone else does. Losing control of a personal situation will be to your detriment. Nurture what you have and eliminate what isn't working for you. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Put greater emphasis on home, family and what you know and do best. Make the domestic changes required to enhance your relationships with the people you live with. Networking will bring about a great opportunity. Offer your skills. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Unpredictable or emotional instability is apparent. Stick close to home and take care of matters that will add to your personal security. Love is on the rise, and doing something nice for someone special will improve your relationship. Home improvements will pay off. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Keep a close eye on how the people around you react. Protect your belongings and refrain from lending or borrowing possessions. A positive change in your position will develop if you take care of responsibilities swiftly. Don't neglect your health. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Taking care of money matters should be your mission. Changing your job or redoing your resume will lead to bigger opportunities. Back away from anyone asking for too much and offering too little. Stick to a set budget. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, creative and imaginative. You are an opportunist.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5	9	7	3	2		
	9						4	
8				5				9
7				4				1
2	6			1	7	4		8
1								2
9								5
	3			9			6	
		2	5	8	4	1		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	4	7	9	1	3	6	5	8
9	3	8	2	6	5	4	7	1
1	5	6	4	7	8	2	3	9
7	6	9	1	5	2	8	4	3
3	2	5	8	4	9	7	1	6
4	8	1	7	3	6	5	9	2
5	9	4	6	2	1	3	8	7
6	1	3	5	8	7	9	2	4
8	7	2	3	9	4	1	6	5

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/23

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

STAY IN SCHOOL — Solution: 10 letters

S	A	A	S	F	I	N	I	S	H	S	T	U	D	Y
T	C	C	T	W	O	R	K	F	O	R	C	E	G	E
U	A	H	R	L	R	I	M	A	N	A	G	E	V	N
D	D	I	O	E	L	E	A	R	N	R	A	V	I	R
I	E	E	P	L	W	I	E	G	E	L	L	O	C	U
E	M	V	S	S	A	A	F	E	D	A	E	R	T	O
S	I	E	E	R	W	R	R	L	A	(G)	E	P	O	J
S	C	M	D	E	A	S	S	D	U	D	(A)	M	R	D
E	H	E	A	E	R	M	V	H	I	F	A	(I)	Y	P
C	O	N	R	R	D	A	E	T	I	R	R	I	(N)	R
C	I	T	T	A	N	E	S	R	K	P	T	N	T	O
U	C	S	N	C	U	R	A	S	U	T	S	F	I	G
S	E	I	E	A	E	D	U	C	A	T	I	O	N	R
O	S	E	C	U	R	E	Y	L	P	P	A	R	U	A
N	S	U	I	N	E	G	S	E	I	R	O	M	E	M

© 2013 Universal Uclick www.wonderwordcom Join us on Facebook 4/24

Academic, Achievements, Advance, Apply, Arts, Award, Careers, Choices, College, Credits, Degree, Dreams, Education, Finish, Fulfill, Gain, Genius, Grant, Improve, Inform, Journey, Learn, Manage, Marks, Mature, Memories, Program, Read, Reward, Scholarships, Secure, Skills, Sports, Studies, Study, Success, Trades, Unit, Victory, Workforce

Yesterday's Answer: Gossip

Today's THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 26, 27, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35 or 36 sized 8½" x 11" each plus $1 postage per book may be ordered by phone at 1-800-... $5 Anthology, Comic Book and $9.00 dictionary (paperback) and $4.99 (hardback) are also available at most bookstores, or by mail to: Wonderword, (TODAY or #1), c/o Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Certain puzzles are also available in Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic and Russian.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1-Violin Instructor. 3 years experience. Myong Run Corp. dba Doremi Music School. Tel: 233-7777.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Accounting Associate: $5.55-$6.00/hour, College graduate with at least five years of work related experience. Knowledge with AccountEdge Premium Accounting Software is preferred. Vimar Offshore, Inc. dba Manic Inn. Email resume with job references to manicinn@pticom.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) F & B Manager: $5.55-$6.00/hour, Bachelor's Degree with at least five years of work related experience. Must have good working knowledge in Japanese and Russian. Vimar Offshore, Inc. dba Manic Inn. Email resume with job references to manicinn@pticom.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) General Maintenance: $5.55/hour, College or High School graduate with at least three years of work related experience. Willing to work day or night. Vimar Offshore, Inc. dba Manic Inn. Email resume with job references to manicinn@pticom.com

Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Manager
Min. 5 yrs experience. Extensive knowledge in Accounting, Office Management & Insurance Industry. Ability to adjust in different working environments & deal with various clients of different ethnicity. Salary commensurate with work experience. Send police clearance together with cover letter & resume to friendshipinformation @gmail.com or Friendship Ent., Inc., P.O. Box 501193 CK, Saipan, MP 96950.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS

LCD & Plasma TV Repair
Samsung, Philips, Vizio
Call for more information
Calvatron **233-5641**
Open: Monday-Saturday • 9:00AM-7:00PM

GJ DRESS SHOP
Vacancy Announcement
2-Dressmaker
Salary $5.55 per hour. 5 years experience. Chinese speaking prefer.
Interested applicants may send resume to PMB 1878 Box 10005, Saipan, MP 96950 or call 989-8803 for more details.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!
COOK
MUST WORK FLEXIBLE HOURS.
Send resume to
MITSUE'S RESTAURANT
PMB 778 BOX 10000 SAIPAN, MP 96950

Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) House worker
Salary $5.05 per hour. 3 years experience
Interested applicant must contact and submit resume to
RPCF, INC P.O. Box 504549 Saipan MP 96950
Tel No.: 234-9127
Email: brian@pticom.com

Saipan City Taxi Association, Inc.
Job Vacancy Annoucement
14 – Taxi Drivers. Salary Rate: $5.55/hr. At least 2 years of taxi driving experience in the CNMI. Must be a holder of a valid CNMI Driver's License, CNMI Taxi Driver's License, and a CNMI Taxi Bureau Identification Card. Current Police Clearance, Traffic Clearance and Traffic History. Willing to work flexible hours.
Interested applicants may send resume to PO Box 7765 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950. Please send your resume no later than May 02, 2013.

Duenas, Camacho & Associates, Incorporated has an opening for:

One (1) Survey Instrument Man

Minimum Qualifications: Associates degree in Geodetic Engineering (may be foreign equivalent) and two (2) years experience as a survey instrument man or surveyor assistant, and working knowledge of conventional and GPS survey instruments and land surveying computation/coordinate geometry software.

Duties: Performs land survey-related data and document research. Conducts field cadastral, topographic and/or as-built surveys on assigned projects. Operates survey instruments during the conduct of assigned survey work. Organizes and takes survey field notes according to procedures established by the chief of surveys. Downloads and assists in the plotting of data from data collectors according to procedures established by the chief of surveys. Uses computer-based land survey software applications to perform land survey-related computations. Works and coordinates with engineers and environmental scientists to satisfy survey requirements on engineering design and environmental projects.

If interested, send application to Duenas, Camacho & Associates, Incorporated by email to duenas1@pticom.com or by fax at 670-234-3842.

HAFADAI BEACH HOTEL
P.O. BOX 500338 SAIPAN, MP 96950-0338 | TEL: (670) 234-6495 to 98 FAX: (670) 237-2529

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Open Date: April 18, 2013 **Close Date:** April 26, 2013

Position: **(1) Assistant Manager, Sales & Marketing**
Salary: $1,850.00 monthly
Job Qualification: College Graduate emphasis sales & Marketing Tourism. (3) years experience. Read Tourism Journal to plan tourism sales & marketing tragedy. Japanese/Chinese speaking. Write monthly report to Head Office in Japan.

Position: **(1) Accountant**
Salary: $6.00 per hour
Job Qualification: AA Degree / College Graduated / (2) Years Experience.

For more information you may contact Mr. Juan I. Tenorio, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-6495/8 ext. 5840/2. Employment application forms are available at Hafadai Beach Hotel, Human Resources Department.

AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

PACIFIC CENTURY INC, have job openings for reliable and experienced personnel:

Cashiers/Grocery Checkers(4): Operate Casio ECRs with scanners. Minimum two years experience. Accurate cash transacting, able to validate checks and process credit cards transactions. Must be healthy, presentable, and above 21 years to legally transact restricted alcohol and tobacco products. This is a multitask position involving grocery checking, bagging or receiving or merchandise display at light hours. Split shifts, weekend shifts. $5.55 - $6.05 per hr depending on experience in ECRs.

Store Supervisors (2): Supervise all employees to ensure product availability, competitive pricing, updating of Casio ECRS, verifying cash sales, and all other functions to ensure store competitiveness, cleanliness, and pleasant environment for complete customer purchase satisfaction. Minimum four years retail experience. Must have competitive market knowledge. Early and late shifts. $5.95-$7.50/hour

Retail Buyers (2): Buy merchandise, frozen, chilled and fresh produce for resale. Familiar with fast moving merchandise, sources of supply, order quantities and costs. Select items, order merchandise, allocate display retail areas, assign store work including receiving, merchandising, product mark-ups and other related duties. Minimum 2 years experience in the CNMI retail sector required. Applicants must be knowledgeable of products, suppliers and market pricing to be able to perform purchasing duties. $5.55 - $6.05/hr.

Butchers (2): Cut frozen products, trim and pack for resale. Minimum two years experience in meat cutting with current health clearance. Thorough knowledge of food safety, sanitation, and dismantling and re-assembling equipment, and facility maintenance for safe processing of meats and frozen foods required. Must know how to safely operate high speed Biro or Hobart Meat Cutters and Slicers, and be able to use barcoding meat labeling. Split shifts. $5.55 - $6.05 per hr.

General Maintenance Worker (1) Part- Time (1): Maintenance of store and equipment to include light welding, carpentry, cleaning, painting, pipe fitting, aligning of meat cutters, forklift maintenance and other related duties in maintenance. Full time applicant must have current OSHA certification in operating forklifts to transfer equipment for cleaning. Minimum two years experience. $5.55 to $6.05 per hr.

Cleaners (2): Perform combination of light cleaning duties to maintain private households and businesses. Minimum two years experience required with written references from past employers attesting to reliability and honesty. Able to work night and weekend shifts. $5.55 per hr.

Sorters (4): Perform sorting of materials for recycling, sampling or testing. Must be able to work in all weather conditions. This may be a part time or project based employment, with early morning, evening and week-end split shifts. Minimum one year experience in general labor, preferably some knowledge of waste sorting. Must be able to follow instructions on materials separations and accurately achieve weights and volume specifications in material separations. $5.55/hr

Heavy Equipment Operators/Facilities Personnel (4): Able to operate lift trucks, balers, compressors, generators, grinding equipment, back-hoes. Must have general mechanical knowledge, current OSHA certification for lift trucks, and possess knowledge of work place safety. $5.55 - $7.50 per hour depending on experience. Minimum one years experience needed. This is a project based position, with split and weekend shifts.

Please submit resume to include ORIGINAL current police clearance and health certificate **by mail only** to Pacific Century Inc, P.O. Box 504514. Please submit references with telephone contact numbers for verification of attendance of previous employment. **U.S. citizens and USCIS work authorized residents are preferred. Applicants may be required to undertake drug testing**. Selected Applicants may be assigned to either company's locations or at project sites, and rotated at management's discretion.

Pacific Century Inc., is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WHATZIT Solution: Count Dracula

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

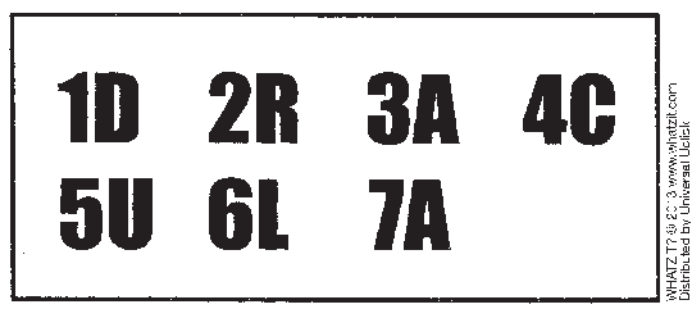
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section

Clippers edge Grizzlies 93-91 on Paul's shot

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Paul's running jumper with a tenth of a second left gave the Los Angeles Clippers a 93-91 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Monday night and a 2-0 lead in their first-round playoff series.

Both teams stayed on the court while the referees reviewed the play. It was declared good, leaving Memphis a tick of the clock to inbound the ball but not enough to get off a final shot.

Paul finished with 24 points and nine assists, Blake Griffin added 21 points and eight rebounds and Jamal Crawford scored 15 points on the day he finished second to J.R. Smith of the Knicks for the league's Sixth Man of the Year award.

Paul carried the Clippers in the final 3:46, scoring eight straight points, including a basket that gave them a 91-89 lead with 1:20 to play.

Mike Conley scored a career playoff high 28 points while leading the Grizzlies' fourth-quarter charge that came up just short. He had 10 points in the period, while Darrell Arthur scored five straight to pull Memphis into an 89-all tie.

Conley found Marc Gasol alone in the paint and the big man dunked to tie the game 91-all with 13 seconds left.

The Clippers won a hard-fought jump ball, but Paul missed a 3-pointer. He redeemed himself and set off a raucous reaction when he fought off Tony Allen's defense and banked in the game-winner.

Gasol added 17 points, Allen had 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Zach Randolph had 13 points while racking up five fouls for the second straight game.

Game 3 is Thursday in Memphis.

The Clippers' bench started the fourth quarter and ran off eight straight points for the game's first double-digit lead, 81-71. Eric Bledsoe and Matt Barnes had four points each.

Conley answered with five straight points to close the Grizzlies within seven points.

Griffin and Paul joined the second unit, and Griffin scored on a driving dunk for an 85-76 lead. The Clippers returned to their high-flying ways after Lob City managed just one dunk in the series opener.

The Clippers led by seven points early in the third before the game turned into a back-and-forth affair. Memphis briefly regained a one-point lead and then tied it 59-all on Arthur's dunk before Paul scored six of the Clippers' final 13 points to send them into the fourth leading 75-71.

Neither team led by more than eight points in the first half, with the Clippers ahead 50-44 at halftime. The Grizzlies led most of the first quarter before the Clippers tied it late on a 3-pointer from the right corner by Crawford.

Los Angeles controlled the second quarter, when Crawford got hot. He was 6 of 6 for 13 points before missing a shot.

AP

Los Angeles Clippers guard Chris Paul, right, scores the game-winning basket over Darrell Arthur and Tony Allen during the second half of Game 2 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, Monday, April 22, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Bulls 90, Nets 82

In New York, whatever pain Joakim Noah was feeling in that achy right foot would have to wait.

Blowing a chance to even the Chicago Bulls' playoff series would have hurt so much worse.

Noah gutted his way through a foot injury that made it difficult to even run in Game 1, making three fourth-quarter baskets as the Bulls beat the Brooklyn Nets 90-82 on Monday night to tie their first-round series at one game apiece.

"I thought overall, I thought Jo was very rusty in the first game but willed it, and I thought he willed it again tonight and we needed every bit of it," Bulls coach Tom Thibodeau said. "To me, it's obvious we're a much better team with him on the floor."

Carlos Boozer had 13 points and 12 rebounds, and Luol Deng bounced back from a poor opener with 15 points and 10 boards for the Bulls, who became the first team to win a road game this postseason.

They did it the only way they know how: with bruising Bulls defense.

"I feel like overall our team played passionate basketball tonight and that's a plus, because it was ugly in that Game 1," Noah said.

Chicago held the Nets to two baskets in the third quarter to build a big enough lead to hold off a charge in the fourth.

Noah finished with 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Bulls, who host Game 3 on Thursday.

Brook Lopez scored 21 points for the Nets, who shot 35 percent from the field and were just 4 of 21 from 3-point range. Star point guard Deron Williams was 1 of 9, finishing with eight points.

"We didn't get stops, which was the key for us because then we couldn't get out and run like we wanted to," Williams said. "We have to do a better job defensively next game. I've got to do a better job of everything really. This was a bad one for me."

After an unrecognizable defensive effort in a 106-89 loss in Game 1, when they allowed the Nets to shoot 16 of 20 in the second quarter, the Bulls got back to the mentality that has helped them overcome a number of injuries, including the season-long absence of Derrick Rose.

Noah, who has battled plantar fasciitis and whose status was in question coming into the series, played 25 1-2 minutes, just passing the 20-to-25 that Thibodeau said he would be limited to.

The All-Star center, who grew up and played high school basketball here, missed 12 of the final 15 games of the regular season. He was ineffective in 13 minutes Saturday, finishing with four points, but he was all over the court in the second half Monday, scoring 11 points and grabbing seven rebounds and fighting for any loose ball he could get near.

"He's willing it is what he's doing, and to his credit," Thibodeau said.

Joe Johnson scored 17 points but shot 6 of 18 for the Nets, who couldn't even reach the 87.5 points they averaged against the Bulls in the regular season, let alone the 106 they rang up in the opener.

Two nights after the first major postseason game in Brooklyn since the 1956 World Series, the crowd wasn't as energetic and neither were the Nets, who didn't give the fans much to cheer about with poor starts in both halves.

"Our execution when they made an adjustment or when they increased the defensive pressure, we didn't handle it or react as well as we need to," Nets interim coach P.J. Carlesimo said.

The Nets didn't make their first field goal of the third quarter until Williams' only basket of the game with 6:35 remaining in the period. Reggie Evans dunked less than a minute later, but that was about it for the Nets' offense.

Boozer converted a three-point play to start a 9-2 run to end the period, and Chicago was ahead 69-57.

Brooklyn was 2 of 19 (10.5 percent) in the quarter, missing all three 3-point attempts. Noah's low-scoring backup, Nazr Mohammed, had as many baskets in the period as the Nets.

Chicago pushed it to 14 points early in the fourth before Brooklyn cut it to five. Noah had two baskets around a 3-pointer from Nate Robinson as the Bulls seemed in control again with an 80-68 lead, but Johnson hit two 3-pointers in an 8-0 surge that trimmed it to 80-76 with 4:12 to play.

But Johnson missed an open 3-pointer that could have cut it to one, and back-to-back baskets by Deng and Noah extended the lead to 86-78.

The Nets were trying for their first 2-0 lead in a series since the first round in 2004, when they swept the Knicks. But they couldn't get the quick pace that favored them in Game 1, forcing themselves to beat Chicago's defense in the half court, and they couldn't do it.

There were even some boos from the fans who stuck around to the end and had lost interest much earlier. The overhead video board encouraged them to wave towels during a third-quarter timeout, but it seemed it was mostly missed or ignored, as there was no noticeable response.

The Nets missed eight of their first 10 shots, allowing the Bulls to get into the defensive game they need. Brooklyn shot just 33 percent in the first quarter, missed five of its six 3-point attempts, and Chicago led 20-17.

The second quarter is where it got away from the Bulls on Saturday, but this time they methodically increased their lead to seven midway through the period. A 12-3 run by the Nets, capped by three straight jumpers by Lopez from about the same spot, gave them a 39-37 lead, though Chicago quickly stopped the momentum by answering with six straight and let 47-46 at the break.

Kirk Hinrich finished with 13 points and Robinson had 11.

Knicks' J.R. Smith wins NBA Sixth Man award

GREENBURGH, N.Y. (AP)—J.R. Smith won the NBA's Sixth Man of the Year award Monday after turning a role he didn't want into one of the strengths of the New York Knicks' first division championship team in nearly two decades.

Smith received 484 points, including 72 first-place votes, from a panel of 121 writers and broadcasters. The Clippers' Jamal Crawford finished second with 352 points, getting 31 first-place votes.

Smith averaged 18.1 points in 80 games, all off the bench. He had 29 games in which he scored 20 points as a reserve, tying Crawford for the NBA lead.

The 6-foot-6 swingman wanted to start, but said he accepted it fairly quickly once coach Mike Woodson told him he would be a reserve.

The New Jersey native had by far his best NBA season, helping the Knicks to their first Atlantic Division title since 1994.

"I just wanted to show everybody that I could be a team guy and it's all about the team," Smith said at a news conference attended by his family, teammates and coaches.

Smith helped the Knicks to their most victories since they went 57-25 in 1996-97. New York is the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference and leads the Boston Celtics 1-0 in their first-round playoff series.

It's the second individual award in two years for the Knicks, following Tyson Chandler's Defensive Player of the Year honor last season. Smith joins former Knicks sixth-man winners Anthony Mason in 1995 and John Starks in 1997.

Despite not making a start, Smith was one of the Knicks' most important players. He played more than 40 minutes seven times and was often their only scoring threat behind Carmelo Anthony.

"Couldn't have happened to a better guy," Woodson said. "I'm so proud of him, in terms of buying into what we wanted him to do earlier in the season. And it started this summer. I wasn't going to start him, coming into this year, and I knew that. And he bought in. He didn't like it, but he bought in. And it couldn't have happened to a better person, because he put in the time and he worked his butt off to get to this point, and he got rewarded for it. I'm happy for him."

Crawford seemed to be the favorite for most of the season before Smith overtook him with his strong play down the stretch. He had three straight 30-point games from March 26-29, the first time that was done by a reserve since Milwaukee's Ricky Pierce in 1990.

"I more credit it to winning," Smith said. "We've had guys hurt, it just so happened I was one of the guys that stepped up and tried to get us through the tough times that we had."

Crawford said he and Smith exchanged congratulatory texts.

"I can't say I was shocked because I started seeing where it was going over the last few weeks," said Crawford, who thinks he and Smith have different roles with their teams.

"He is the second guy over there after Carmelo," Crawford said. "I'm just a piece of the bench."

Golden State's Jarrett Jack finished third, followed by Kevin Martin of Oklahoma City and Ryan Anderson of New Orleans.

Revis happy to begin new chapter with Buccaneers

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Darrelle Revis walked into the Tampa Bay Buccaneers weight room and received a round of applause from some of his new teammates.

The warm reception meant a lot to Revis.

The three-time All-Pro may have left the New York Jets feeling underappreciated, but he's a welcome addition to a defense that ranked last in the NFL last season and is expected to help transform the Bucs into a playoff team.

And, the well-paid Revis is confident he's up to the task.

"We're going to make a lot of noise. Don't worry about that," the seventh-year pro said Monday. `"I think this was a great move on my part to be a part of this organization."

The star cornerback acquired from the Jets said he's going to "do my best" to play up to expectations that come with a new six-year, $96 million contract.

He also insisted during a news conference that he holds no grudges against his old team, which was reluctant to give a player coming off surgery to repair a torn knee ligament such a commitment.

"I have nothing to prove to the New York Jets," Revis said. "I have nothing to prove to anybody."

Weeks of reports about the 27-year-old's future ended Sunday when the Jets traded Revis to the Bucs in exchange for the 13th overall pick in this week's NFL draft and another selection next year.

Generally regarded as the best cornerback in football, Revis also agreed to what he conceded is a "unique" contract that includes no guaranteed money.

"The contract will take care of itself," he said. "I've just got to go out and play."

The Buccaneers not only are banking on Revis to be physically ready to open the season in September against—yes—the Jets, but believe he's far enough long in his recovery to reasonably expect he'll be able to get on the field for the start of training camp this summer.

"We did our due diligence," general manager Mark Dominik said, "or else we wouldn't have made a deal of this magnitude."

Revis was entering the final year of a contract that would have paid him $6 million in 2013, $10 million less than he'll receive annually with Tampa Bay. His old contract also included a clause that would have prevented the Jets from using the franchise or transition tag on him next year.

Napoli has slam, Red Sox beat Athletics

BOSTON (AP)—Mike Napoli hit a grand slam and drove in five runs, Will Middlebrooks busted out of a slump with a three-run homer as the Boston Red Sox rebounded from a doubleheader sweep by beating the Oakland Athletics 9-6 on Monday.

The Red Sox, swept by Kansas City Sunday, scored three runs in the fourth and five in the fifth. Napoli's fourth career slam keyed the five-run fifth and helped end Oakland's eight-game winning streak against Boston.

The Athletics dropped their season-high fourth straight.

Felix Doubront (2-0) allowed three runs on three hits, walking five. He also threw two wild pitches and struck out eight in 6 2-3 innings.

A.J. Griffin (2-1) was tagged for a career-worst nine runs—seven earned—and eight hits in four-plus innings.

Rangers 7, Angels 6

In Anaheim, California, A.J. Pierzynski hit a tiebreaking homer with two outs in the ninth inning, and Texas rallied from a late three-run deficit for a 7-6 win over the Angels.

Mitch Moreland had three hits and drove in a run for the Rangers, who also got three hits from Elvis Andrus in their fourth consecutive victory, snapping the Angels' three-game winning streak.

Chris Iannetta doubled in the go-ahead run and Luis Jimenez got his first career RBIs on a two-run single while the Angels took a 6-3 lead in the sixth inning, but Texas tied it with three runs in the seventh.

Pierzynski then hit his fourth homer of the season to right off Angels closer Ernesto Frieri (0-1).

Tanner Scheppers (2-0) pitched two innings of one-hit relief for the Rangers, and Joe Nathan worked the ninth for his sixth save.

Josh Hamilton had four hits against his former team after getting bumped out of the cleanup spot.

Orioles 2, Blue Jays 1

In Baltimore, Nick Markakis singled home the winning run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, giving the Orioles a victory over the Blue Jays.

Toronto reliever Aaron Loup (1-2) began the ninth by hitting Chris Davis with a pitch. After a sacrifice bunt, Steve Pearce popped out and Nolan Reimold received an intentional walk before Alexi Casilla reached on a throwing error by shortstop Munenori Kawasaki that loaded the bases.

Markakis then sliced an 0-2 pitch to the opposite field near the left-field line.

Jim Johnson (1-1) worked a perfect ninth for the Orioles, now 5-2 on a nine-game homestand that ends Wednesday.

Rays 5, Yankees 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Matt Moore became the first Rays pitcher to win his first four starts of a season, Ryan Roberts homered twice and Tampa Bay beat CC Sabathia and the Yankees.

Moore (4-0) allowed one run, two hits, three walks and had nine strikeouts over eight innings. Roberts connected in the first and third to help the Rays take an early 5-0 lead.

Yankees infielder Kevin Youkilis, who left Saturday's game at Toronto with lower back stiffness, was a late scratch Monday after the back tightened up following batting practice.

Sabathia (3-2) had a three-game winning streak end. The left-hander gave up five runs and seven hits over seven innings.

Indians 3, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Asdrubal Cabrera hit a clutch two-run single in his return to the lineup and the Indians used a throwing error by reliever Matt Thornton to rally for a victory over the White Sox.

Justin Masterson (4-1) pitched seven effective innings to help the Indians win their third straight. They have won three of four this season against the White Sox.

Cleveland had runners on first and second with one out in the eighth when Thornton (0-1) threw wildly to second while trying to pick off Drew Stubbs. Both runners moved up as the ball went into center field.

Jason Kipnis struck out for the second out, but Cabrera hit a liner to center to give Cleveland a 3-2 lead.

Mariners 7, Astros 1

In Houston, Felix Hernandez pitched six scoreless innings for his 100th career win and Seattle homered three times to back him up in a victory over the Astros

Hernandez (2-2) reached the milestone in his fourth try to join Jamie Moyer (145) and Randy Johnson (130) as the only pitchers to reach 100 wins with the Mariners.

Hernandez allowed five hits and struck out nine to lower his ERA to 2.08.

Kyle Seager, Jesus Montero and Kendrys Morales all homered for the Mariners, who snapped a three-game losing streak.

Rick Ankiel hit a solo homer in the seventh inning for the Astros, who dropped to 5-14—the second-worst start in franchise history, according to STATS. They opened 4-20 in 1969.

Houston starter Brad Peacock (1-2) yielded nine hits and seven runs—both season highs—in 4 1-3 innings.

Cardinals 3, Nationals 2

In Washington, Yadier Molina drove in the go-ahead run in the sixth inning, backing Shelby Miller's strong start Monday as the St. Louis Cardinals returned to the site of their Game 5 National League division series victory last season with a 3-2 victory over the Washington Nationals.

The other big hit for St. Louis was Allen Craig's two-run double in the third.

Miller (3-1) struck out eight in 6 2-3 innings, allowing two runs and four hits.

All the Cardinals' runs came against Dan Haren (1-3), who gave up three runs and six hits in five-plus innings.

Edward Mujica pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his second save. The Cardinals have alternated wins and losses over their last nine games.

Washington has lost seven of 10.

Giants 5, Diamondbacks 4

In San Francisco, Brandon Belt hit a game-winning single in the ninth inning after Buster Posey tied the score with a two-run homer in the eighth, and San Francisco rallied to beat Arizona for its seventh straight victory at home.

Posey's drive to straightaway center was his second homer of the year, both in the past two days.

Belt's first career game-ending hit came against Tony Sipp (1-1), who allowed a leadoff single to Andres Torres. Brandon Crawford sacrificed him to second.

Jose Mijares struck out two in the ninth before yielding Cliff Pennington's double. Sergio Romo (1-1) relieved in a double switch as Belt entered at first base. Romo retired pinch-hitter Eric Hinske on a first-pitch grounder.

Diamondbacks pitcher Wade Miley hit his first career home run and Eric Chavez also connected.

Phillies 3, Pirates 2

In Philadelphia, Jimmy Rollins hit a tiebreaking single in the sixth inning and Jonathan Pettibone had an impressive major league debut to lead Philadelphia past Pittsburgh.

Pettibone allowed two runs and six hits, striking out six in 5 1-3 innings. Raul Valdes (1-0) got two outs in the sixth and Jonathan Papelbon finished for his fourth save.

Pedro Alvarez and Russell Martin hit solo homers for the Pirates on a chilly night when the temperature dipped below 50 degrees.

Pirates starter A.J. Burnett gave up two runs and five hits, fanning seven in five innings. Jared Hughes (1-2) retired his first two batters in the sixth before running into trouble.

Reds 5, Cubs 4, 13 innings

In Cincinatti, Jay Bruce hit a tying double and scored on Cesar Izturis' two-out single in the 13th inning, rallying Cincinnati to a victory that gave Chicago its fourth straight loss.

Luis Valbuena hit a two-run homer in the top of the 13th off Alfredo Simon (2-1) for a 4-2 Cubs lead.

Michael Bowden (0-1) couldn't hold it. He gave up a single by Xavier Paul, Brandon Phillips' double and Bruce's two-run double that tied it.

Izturis' single past diving shortstop Starlin Castro sent the Reds to their seventh victory in eight games on their homestand.

Bruce also hit his first homer of the season to start Cincinnati's comeback from a 2-0 deficit in the seventh.

The Cubs have dropped seven of eight and 12 of 15, leaving them in last place in the NL Central at 5-13. David DeJesus hit a leadoff homer for Chicago.

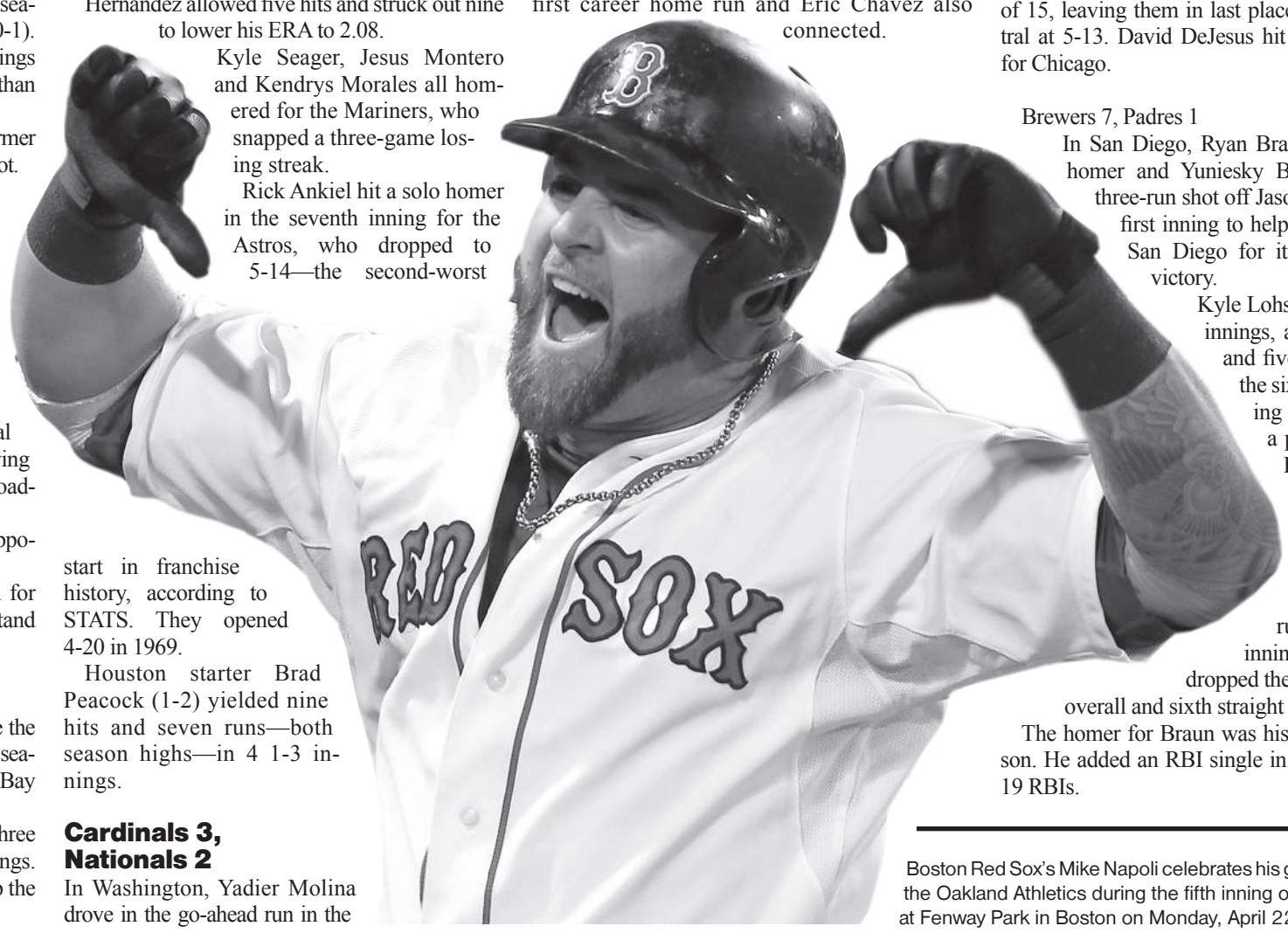
Brewers 7, Padres 1

In San Diego, Ryan Braun hit a two-run homer and Yuniesky Betancourt had a three-run shot off Jason Marquis in the first inning to help Milwaukee beat San Diego for its eighth straight victory.

Kyle Lohse (1-1) went five innings, allowing one run and five hits, but left in the sixth after dislocating his left pinkie on a play at first base. He said he expects to make his next start.

Marquis (1-2) was rocked for seven runs in four-plus innings as the Padres dropped their fourth in a row overall and sixth straight at home.

The homer for Braun was his sixth of the season. He added an RBI single in the fifth and has 19 RBIs.



AP

Boston Red Sox's Mike Napoli celebrates his grand slam against the Oakland Athletics during the fifth inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston on Monday, April 22, 2013.

GHD, San Roque win debuts

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

GHD and San Roque Bandits triumphed in their debuts in the 2013 DLX Invitational last Monday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

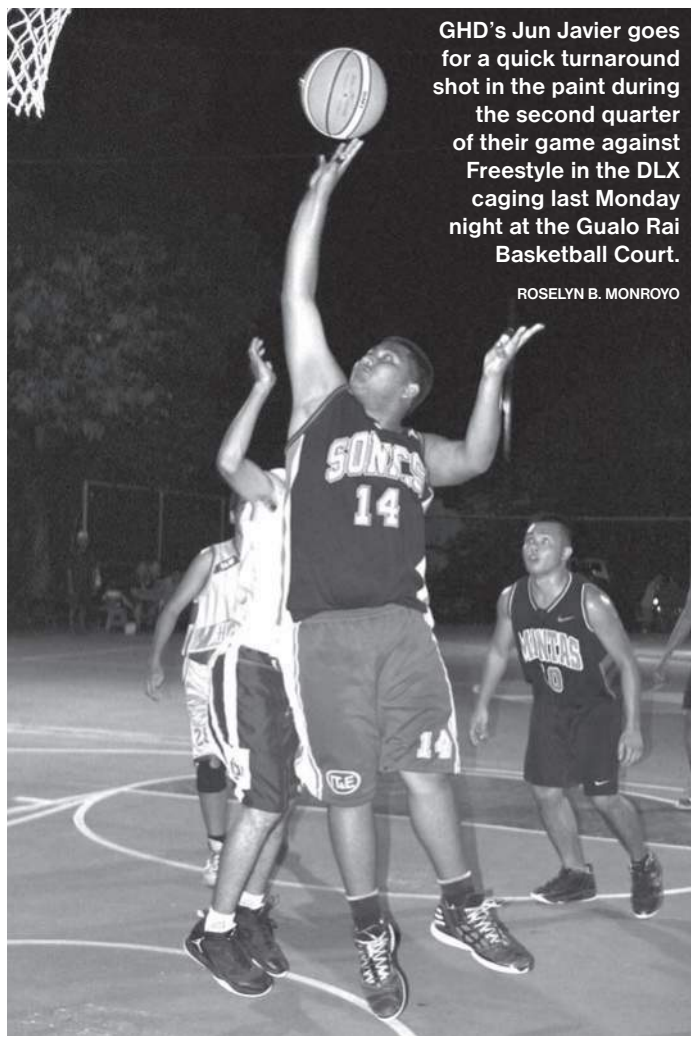
San Roque played in the curtain-raiser and outclassed Lyn's Heat, 69-60, while GHD dominated Freestyle in the second match of the night, 74-58, to join opening day victors Adobo and Mawati in the win column.

GHS raced to a 15-5 lead in the first five minutes of play and although Freestyle stole the lead momentarily in the second quarter off Jun Pantaleon's triple, 30-29, the former recovered quickly for the easy win.

Freestyle, who missed big man Mark Brown right into the second minute of the first period due to a bad fall in a rebound play, went cold in the last four minutes of the second canto, allowing GHS to regain the lead at halftime, 38-30.

GHS then stretched the advantage to twin digits in the third, 56-43, with Jason Bahillo and John Paul Villanueva combining for 10 points in that canto. Villanueva continued to pile up points in the final canto, while Freestyle failed to make headway to drop its debut.

Villanueva led all scorers with his 24 points, while Bahillo and James Bautista finished in twin digits, too with their 14 and 10 markers, respectively. Pantaleon paced Freestyle with his 13 points.



GHD's Jun Javier goes for a quick turnaround shot in the paint during the second quarter of their game against Freestyle in the DLX caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

In the first game, San Roque foiled Lyn's Heat comeback bids in the fourth canto after canning crucial free throws. The Bandits scored all their last 9 points from the foul line with Jun Sinca nailing 5 charities and Art Salazar adding 2. McClain Achas and Robert Guaing had splits.

Sinca top-scored for San Roque with his 24 points, while Angelo Fernando chipped in 22, scoring the team's last 6 points in the first quarter for their 20-11 advantage. Sinca, who was held to one field goal in the opening period, added 8 more to keep San Roque on top at halftime, 32-25.

Then in the second half, Fernando dropped 6 straight points, while Sinca drilled the last 6 for San Roque, which protected its lead at the end of the third, 45-30. In the fourth quarter, Sinca and Fernando slowed down, as they were held to two field goals apiece, however the former earned enough points from the foul line to lift San Roque to the nine-point win.

First Game

San Roque Bandits 69 – Sinca 24, Fernando 22, Guiang 9, Gapor 6, Mc. Achas 5, Salazar 2.

Lyn's Heat 60 – Dayrit 18, Manalo 12, Capalad 11, Camach 10, Garcia 5, Montano 4.

Scoring by quarters: 20-11, 32-25, 45-39, 69-60.

Second Game

GHD 74 – Villanueva 24, Bahillo 14, Bautista 10, Ajoste 7, Javier 4, Ferrer 4, Mostales 2, Raquero 2.

Freestyle 58 – Pantaleon 13, Bisana 10, Gunnaco 10, Ong 7, Cadiang 6, Tobias 5, Del Rosario 2, Barrozo 2, Lanuza 2, Echavez 1.

Scoring by quarters: 16-13, 38-30, 56-43, 74-58.

JPO

From Page 28

plate, courtesy of Iskawa's single to centerfield to move the Comets I within one run.

Rangamar, who had two batters out before allowing four hits and two runs in the ensuing plays, then struck out Villar to end the inning and the Comets I's rally. However, the Comets I remained in contention after the Enforcers failed to score in the bottom of the fifth.

Rangamar continued to pitch for the Enforcers despite a meltdown in the fifth and grounded out leadoff batter Vincent Nakamura in the last inning. Frederick Francisco was next at bat and he walked, but was caught stealing second base for the second out. A Sebastian Saures grounder to short kept the Comets I in the game for a while before Rangamar got the third out catching a fly ball from Kobe Santos.

The Enforcers pitcher got the win in a complete game, allowing seven hits, two earned runs, and two walks, and striking out nine.

Little Legals 17, Comets II 8

In the first game last Sunday, the Kagman Little Legals (6-5) routed the Comets II (5-6).

The Little Legals leaned on their solid batting performance in the last two innings to cruise to their sixth win and boost their playoff chances. Only the Top 8 teams in the 16-team field will advance to the next round and the Little Legals are in ninth place.

The Little Legals were ahead by only two, 7-5, after three complete innings when they scored six runs in the fourth and added four more in the fifth to break the game wide open. The Comets II got only three runs in the fifth and failed to extend the game when it did not score at the top of the sixth.

Gloyd Martin Junior went 2-for-4 for the Little Legals and had two RBIs Jose Camacho. and Rayson Lisua also nailed two RBIs.

Laolao 23, Ford Rangers 2

In last Thursday's game, Laolao Bay Golf Resort won the battle of Kagman teams, slamming the Ford Rangers.

Laolao (8-3) coasted to the victory after only three innings. A 13-run top of the second was all Laolao needed to take the win via mercy-run rule. The Ford Rangers, which remained winless in 11 games, bowed out after making only one run apiece in the second and third inning.

Andy Kalen, Pete Maratita., and Justin Celis had four RBIs each for Laolao Bay.

Meanwhile, in other results last week, the NSA Braves (9-2) downed McDonald's (6-4), 9-6, while the Survivors (4-7) stunned the league-leading Talaabwogh Falcons (10-2), 1-0.

BREWERS

From Page 28

and these remaining matches will decide which among the Brewers, Yankees, and Fielders will bring home the pennant and get the top seed in the four-team playoffs.

The Angels take on the D-9ers tonight with the former's win ensuring them a slot to the next round. Then on Friday, the Yankees will meet the Fielders, which will play its last regular season game on April 29 against the Brewers. Last Wednesday's postponed match between the Yankees and the D-9ers is also expected to be held next week, while the playoffs start on May 6. The semis will be a best-of-three affair, while the finals will follow a best-of-five format.

The Brewers boosted their chances for the top seeding in the playoffs and the pennant after withstanding the Yankees' rally in the eighth-inning. The defending champions were behind, 5-12, after seven complete innings when the Brewers committed defensive lapses and pitcher Vince Cepeda showed signs of fatigue at the top of the eighth, allowing their foes to close the gap.

The Yankees made three hits and scored five runs off the Yankees' fielding and throwing errors to move within two, 10-12, before Cepeda finally got the Brewers out of trouble, striking out Byron Kaipat on his second turn at bat in the eighth inning.

Although they halted the Yankees' run, the Brewers were not out of the woods yet, as they failed to increase their lead at the bottom of the eighth. Leadoff batter McGarry Scaliem was beaten to first, Nokki Saralu hit a line drive to right field, but also did not make it to first on time, while Manny Sablan was left stranded on first after he singled to center field, as the Yankees made another 6-3 put out play on fourth batter Mike Pangelinan.

Despite his breakdown in the previous inning, Cepeda remained on the mound and closed out the game for the Brewers. He faced leadoff batter A.J. Lizama, who was called for the first out with third baseman Sarulu picking up a grounder and throwing to first baseman Clifton Sillil. Next up was Chris Camacho and with two strikes and two balls, Cepeda sat him out, catching a fly ball. Third batter Robert Bansil then kept the Yankees' hopes alive when he singled to center field and it was up to Greg Camacho to bring him home. However, Camacho's first swing came up empty and Cepeda was one strike away from securing the win after the former hit a foul ball for the second strike. Two high pitches in the ensuing plays left Cepeda frustrated before he went for the fifth pitch and Camacho again came up with an empty swing to end the game in favor of the Brewers.

Cepeda had nine strikeouts and allowed only three hits and one earned run in the first four innings, as the Brewers built a promising 9-4 advantage. The Yankees scored all the runs at the top of the fourth, while the Brewers got six at the bottom, three of them came from base hits from Juan Iguel, Jun Rabauliman, and Jared Sablan.

TALAVERA

From Page 28

against the latter in last month's roll-off. Zapanta got his first win in January, beating Talavera.

Joining Talavera and Zapanta in the Top 3 were Omechelang and Paul Pangelinan, who showed up again in the Sunday event and broke his Day 1 score (724) with his 795 pinfalls to slip past Manacop.

Meanwhile, in the Queen of the Lanes, Tess Fabie earned her first win of the season after besting 13 other keglers.

Fabie led after last Saturday's roll-off, as she gathered 707 pinfalls. She had her best showing in Game 2, tallying 209 pinfalls, while she recorded 152, 171, and 175 in the three other games for a big lead of second placer Kathy Mersai (627).

Fabie missed the Sunday event, but kept the lead and the April tiara, as Gloria Omechelang came up short in her bid to grab the monthly crown. Omechelang collected only 706 pinfalls after a meltdown in the last game where she got 153 pinfalls. The veteran bowler was in a strong position to overtake Fabie after posting 179, 169, and 205 in the first three games.

March winner Lala Taitano also missed a chance for back-to-back wins despite a solid performance in the first two games (179 and 178), as she slowed down in the last two roll-offs (152 and 157) and settled for third place.

Three in a row for Lee

In the Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes, Ji Hoon Lee kept his reign, grabbing his third straight victory in the youth roll-off.

Lee earned 657 pinfalls in four games last Sunday for a nine-pinfall win over Ryan Batac (648). Lee stole the win and extended his run to three after recording 158 pinfalls in Game 4 against Batac's 146. Batac led after three games, 502-499, as he got 147, 190, and 165 in Games 1 to 3 versus the 172, 177, and 150 of Lee.

January winner John Taisacan completed the Top 3 with his 608 pinfalls, and is followed by Leeanne Yarobwemal (547) and Marcel McKenzie (419).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA PLAYOFF LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Anthony, NYK	1	13	6	36	36.0
A. Miller, DEN	1	11	5	28	28.0
James, MIA	1	9	8	27	27.0
Green, BOS	1	8	7	26	26.0
Jennings, MIL	1	8	6	26	26.0
Boozer, CHI	1	12	1	25	25.0
Durant, OKC	1	7	9	24	24.0
Paul, LAC	1	7	6	23	23.0
George, IND	1	3	17	23	23.0
Williams, Bro	1	9	2	22	22.0
Ellis, MIL	1	10	1	22	22.0
Thompson, GOL	1	10	0	22	22.0
Pierce, BOS	1	6	8	21	21.0
Lopez, Bro	1	7	7	21	21.0
Teague, ATL	1	7	5	21	21.0
Harden, HOU	1	6	7	20	20.0
Howard, LAL	1	8	4	20	20.0
Allen, MIA	1	6	6	20	20.0
Bayless, MEM	1	6	5	19	19.0
Westbrook, OKC	1	7	4	19	19.0

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Collison, OKC	4	4	1.000
Andersen, MIA	4	4	1.000
McGee, DEN	4	4	1.000
Bledsoe, LAC	7	7	1.000
James, MIA	9	11	.818
Watson, Bro	6	8	.750
Bosh, MIA	5	7	.714
Wallace, Bro	5	7	.714
Hill, IND	7	10	.700
A. Miller, DEN	11	16	.688

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Gasol, LAL	1	1	15	16	16.0
Howard, LAL	1	0	15	15	15.0
Lee, GOL	1	2	12	14	14.0
Bogut, GOL	1	5	9	14	14.0
Evans, Bro	1	1	12	13	13.0
Chandler, DEN	1	1	12	13	13.0
George, IND	1	1	10	11	11.0
Leonard, SAN	1	2	9	11	11.0
Iguodala, DEN	1	0	10	10	10.0
Duncan, SAN	1	2	8	10	10.0

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
George, IND	1	12	12.0
Westbrook, OKC	1	10	10.0
Jack, GOL	1	10	10.0
Curry, GOL	1	9	9.0
Parker, SAN	1	8	8.0
James, MIA	1	8	8.0
Gasol, MEM	1	7	7.0
Paul, LAC	1	7	7.0
Williams, Bro	1	7	7.0
Teague, ATL	1	7	7.0

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	13	6	.684	_
Baltimore	11	8	.579	2
New York	10	8	.556	2 1/2
Tampa Bay	9	10	.474	4
Toronto	8	12	.400	5 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	10	7	.588	_
Minnesota	8	7	.533	1
Detroit	9	9	.500	1 1/2
Cleveland	8	10	.444	2 1/2
Chicago	7	12	.368	4

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	13	6	.684	_
Oakland	12	8	.600	1 1/2
Los Angeles	7	11	.389	5 1/2
Seattle	8	13	.381	6
Houston	5	14	.263	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	13	5	.722	_
New York	9	8	.529	3 1/2
Washington	10	9	.526	3 1/2
Philadelphia	9	11	.450	5
Miami	4	15	.211	9 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cincinnati	12	8	.600	_
St. Louis	11	8	.579	1/2
Milwaukee	10	8	.556	1
Pittsburgh	10	9	.526	1 1/2
Chicago	5	13	.278	6

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Colorado	13	5	.722	_
San Francisco	13	7	.650	1
Arizona	10	9	.526	3 1/2
Los Angeles	8	10	.444	5
San Diego	5	14	.263	8 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rites of Passage 14: Mayhem Part 1

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Zalaka's Danny Cruz employs a rear-naked choke on Tinian's JoeRay Manglona while referee Frank "The Crank" Camacho looks on during the third round of their bout in Trench Tech's Rites of Passage 14: Mayhem last Friday night the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Zeng Zung's Craig "The Earthquake" Borja unleashes a kick on Lights Out's Kyle Toves.

Spike 22's Mikey "The Flash" Taitano tries to twist the arm of Trench Tech's Martin "Ningbo Slice" Cepeda during the main event bout.

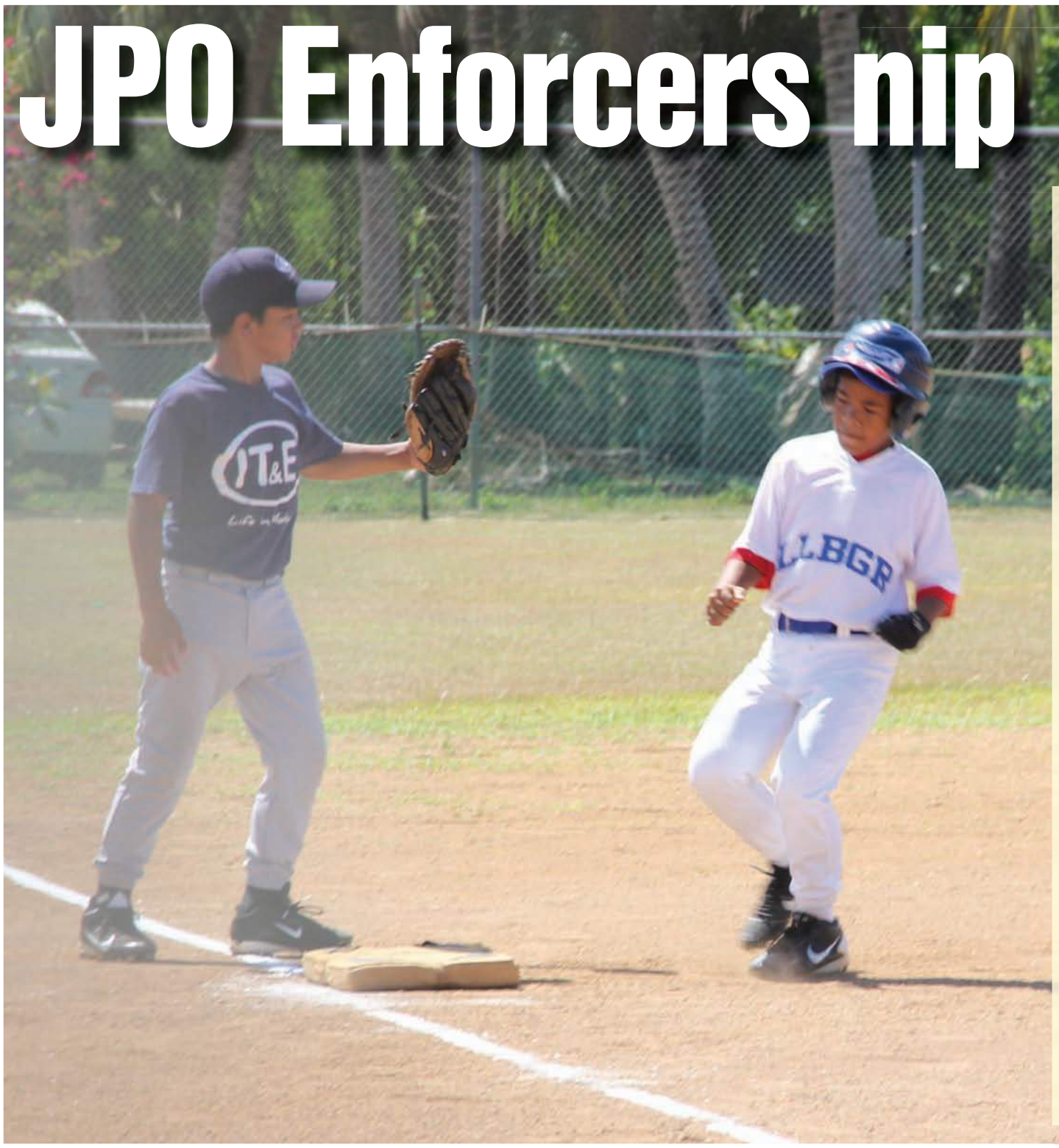
Independent fighter Eric "Superman" Villanueva, left, and Trench Tech's Danny "The Monkey" Santos in action at the corner of the octagon during the first few minutes of the opening round.

Trench Tech's Vince "The Clinch" Masga and Countershot Guam's Josh "The Hedgedog" Alvarez are in their fighting stance in the early round of their bantamweight title bout.

+wide readership
+lengthy shelf life
+optimum distribution
+outstanding ad design and print quality
BASKETBALL TEAMS' NAMES: WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
TAGA SPORTS
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2011
LEINA KIM MAKES HER DAD PROUD
KELVIN 'THE BIG HIT' FITIAL TAKES STOCK
BRUCE BERLINE'S BALANCING ACT
THE STILL INCREDIBLE CECILIA
PLUS
POOL SAFETY
TAKE A HIKE
GOOD DART
PLUS BUY A BICYCLE, BIKE TO WORK, FAVORITE TRAILS
TAGA Sports is now on issuu.com/tagasports!
Check out the latest issue and back issues of TAGA Sports, the CNMI's first and premier sports magazine, on issuu.com/tagasports!
Now you won't have to miss a copy of TAGA Sports. Visit issuu.com/tagasports to get your fix on all sports happenings in the CNMI!
To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

JPO Enforcers nip Comets I



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The JPO Enforcers outclassed the Comets I, 4-3, during their game in the Major Division of 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

League-leading pitcher Shakobe Rangamar allowed only three hits in the first four innings and made the save in the sixth after the Comets I rallied in the fifth to give the JPO Enforcers (8-4) the close win.

With Rangamar's steady performance on the mound and at the plate, the Enforcers took a 4-1 lead after four complete innings. He hit a double in the bottom of the first inning where the Enforcers got one run off a Comets I error. The Enforcers pitcher then returned at the plate at the bottom of the third and his double to center field drove Rico Lizama home for their third run overall and second in that inning. Lizama earlier singled in Lloyd Tarope for the Enforcers' first run in the third inning, while Rangamar scored the last run off an error by Comets I catcher Rejay Iskawa.

Down by three after scoring only one run in the second inning with Elijah Villar reaching home off a passed ball, Comets I threatened a comeback in the fifth inning after scoring two runs. Austin Indalecio nailed the first run in the fifth off Dustin Ngirchongor's single, and the latter also reached home

See JPO on Page 26

A Laolao Bay Golf Resort runner heads to third base during an earlier game against IT&E in the Major division of the SLLB at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield. Laolao won and also downed the Ford Rangers last Sunday. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Brewers boost pennant bid

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tan Holdings Brewers improved their chances for winning the pennant in the 2013 Saipan Major League after beating defending champions Saipan Stevedore Northern Yankees anew, 12-10, last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Field.

The Brewers, which topped the Yankees in the second round, 11-5, after losing their first encounter, 8-12, moved up to first place with their 9-2 record. The Yankees dropped to second with their 8-2 card, followed by the IP&E Fielders (7-3), the St. Michael Angels (2-9), and the D-9ers (0-10).

Four more games are left in the three-round regular season

See BREWERS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tan Holdings Brewers' Vince Cepeda pitches to the Saipan Stevedore Northern Yankees during the top of the first inning of their game in the SML last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Talavera, Zapanta share April top honors

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two bowlers were named co-winners in the SBA/Budweiser April King of the Lanes after Robert Talavera and Raymond Zapanta collected 836 pinfalls apiece on separate competition days at the Saipan Bowling Center.

It's the first time in the history of the monthly roll-off that two players finished in a tie for first place.

Zapanta joined the Saturday roll-off and his three 200-pinfall performance (201, 200, and 243) and 192 in Game 2 gave him a 31-pinfall lead over Percy Omechelang (805). Talavera missed the first day of the April competition, allowing Simon Manacop (778) to round out the Top 3 after last Saturday's event. Saipan Bowling Association's monthly tournaments are played for two days, but only the higher score is counted.

In the second day of the April roll-off, it was Zapanta's turn not to play, while Talavera showed up last Sunday and matched the former's output. Talavera scored 200-plus pinfalls in all four games to share the top honors with Zapanta. He started with a 201 in Game 1 and continued his improvement in the last three games, carding 203, 205, and 225.

The April win was second for both Talavera and Zapanta, with the former incidentally prevailing

See TALAVERA on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
SBA/Budweiser April roll-offs co-winners Robert Talavera, right, and Raymond Zapanta, center, are joined by Percy Omechelang for a group photo after the competition last Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.